

LONDON BIRD REPORT 2021

LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY



LONDON BIRD REPORT 2021

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We apologise to our printers for having mis-stated their email address in earlier editions of the London Bird Report, Nos. 83, 84 and 85.

Front cover: Blackcap at Vanburgh Pits. (Rudraksha Chodankar)

Back cover: Peregrine at Walthamstow Wetlands. (Phil Ayles)

Opposite: Song Thrush at Walthamstow Wetlands. (Ann Playford)

Citations from the London Bird Report should follow this style:

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Sequences to file links on the LNHS website: www.lnhs.org.uk

Recording> Recording Birds: Bird Recording Form, Checklist Guide Breeding Criteria, Details of an Unusual Record Form, LBC Gazetteer of Sites.

Publications> London Bird Report: Back issues of the London Bird Report.

Publications> London Bird Report> London Bird Report additional materials:

Consolidated table of contents: 1936 to present.

LNHS bird checklists, breeding criteria, indexes and gazetteers: Checklist of birds of the London area and guide to contributors; Breeding Records Criteria; Indexes of common and scientific names; Mini-gazetteer of sites: 2021.

Rare Birds in the London Area: Rare Birds in London 1900 to 2018.

Foreign-ringed Black-headed Gulls data: Foreign-ringed Black-headed Gulls 2013-2022.

LBR Corrections: London Bird Report 1985 and 2010-2016

Miscellanea: Ringing Reports, WeBS Counts.

MINI-GAZETTEER OF SITES

This mini-gazetteer of sites is a compact summary of recent changes to the full LBC Gazetteer of Sites. It lists the main sites in the London Area as well as all the sites added to the full gazetteer since 2015 (the latter printed in *italic* type). Cross-references from older names are in **red** type. A key to abbreviations is on page 32. It is also posted on the LNHS website under LBR additional materials for LBR 2021 (see page 5).

If a site is not entirely within one of our recording areas, then it is usually taken to be in the recording area that contains the larger area of the site. The most notable of these are: all of the Lea Valley reservoirs, Crystal Palace Park, Holyfield Lake, South Norwood Country Park, Stocker's Lake, Victoria Park and Wrasbury Reservoir.

Ackroyd Drive Green Link	(MX) TQ369819	Ashurst Rough	(SY) TQ185521
Acton Park	(MX) TQ208801	Aspen Wood, Navestock	(EX) TQ537994
Addington Hills	(SY) TQ352644	Baldwins Hill	(EX) TQ426977
Addlestonemoor	(SY) TQ050656	Part of Epping Forest	
Aldenham CP	(HR) TQ170955	Baldwins Pond	(EX) TQ425975
Alexandra Park	(MX) TQ300900	Part of Epping Forest	
Ambresbury Banks	(EX) TL437002	Banbury Res	(EX) TQ362915
Part of Epping Forest		Banstead Downs	(SY) TQ252610
Amwell NR	(HR) TL378128	Barking Bay/Marsh	(EX) TQ477820
Anerley	(SY) TQ350695	Barnes Common	(SY) TQ222758
Arbrook Common	(SY) TQ143632	Barnet PFs	(HR) TQ252954
Ardleigh Green	(EX) TQ535895	Barnsbury	(MX) TQ307840
Ashford Common	(MX) TQ087697	Battersea Park	(IL/SY) TQ282772
Ashtead Common	(SY) TQ175595	Beckton Creekside NR	(EX) TQ450828

Connaught Water, Epping Forest (EX). Close views of wildfowl are possible here. (Mike Trier)



Becontree	(EX) TQ478858	Claybury Woods & Park	(EX) TQ435912
Becontree Heath	(EX) TQ493871	Clayton Hill	(EX) TL386058
Beddington Farmlands	(SY) TQ290667	LVRP site	
Bedfont Lakes CP	(MX) TQ078726	Cobham Floods	(SY) TQ106595
Beech Farm Gravel Pit	(HR) TL190088	Cole Green Tip	(HR) TL265112
Belgravia	(IL/MX) TQ283793	Colnbrook Landfill	(BU) TQ025778
Belhus Woods CP	(EX) TQ570825	Connaught Water	(EX) TQ404953
Bellingham	(KT) TQ380721	Part of Epping Forest	
Bentley Priory NR	(MX) TQ155927	Coopers Green GP	(HR) TL201097
Bernie Spain Gdns, Lambeth	(IL/SY) TQ313804	Coopers Green Lane	(HR) TL192096
Betchworth Hills	(SY) TQ207519	Cornmill Meadows	(EX) TL380011
Black Park	(BU) TQ010836	LVRP site	
Blackheath	(KT) TQ396766	Crayford Marshes	(KT) TQ532775
Blackwall	(MX) TQ384807	Creekmouth, Barking	(EX) TQ452827
Blythe Hill Fields	(KT) TQ366738	Crossness	(KT) TQ490808
Bookham Common	(SY) TQ130565	Croxley Common Moor	(HR) TQ082948
Boston Manor Park	(MX) TQ167780	Crystal Palace Park	(KT) TQ347707
Brasted Chart	(KT) TQ467531	Dagenham Chase	(EX) TQ514858
Breaches Farm, Aimes Green	(EX) TL394021	Dartford Marshes	(KT) TQ544774
Brent Res	(MX) TQ215870	Davy Down	(EX) TQ592803
Bricket Wood Common	(HR) TL130010	De Beauvoir Town	(IL/MX) TQ332839
Broadwater Lake	(MX) TQ045892	Downe Bank	(KT) TQ438609
Brockley and Ladywell Cems	(KT) TQ368749	Duck Wood	(EX) TQ555923
Broxbourne Woods	(HR) TL329073	Duke's Meadows, Chiswick	(MX) TQ208764
Brunswick Park, Barnet	(HR) TQ284936	Dulwich Park	(SY) TQ335735
Brunswick Park, Southwark	(IL/SY) TQ331769	Dulwich Upper Wood	(SY) TQ339729
Buckhurst Hill GP > Luxborough Lakes		Dulwich Village	(SY) TQ334739
Buckingham Palace Gdns	(IL/MX) TQ288796	Ealing Common	(MX) TQ185804
Bulphan Fen	(EX) TQ633864	East Bedfont	(MX) TQ087739
Burgess Park	(IL/SY) TQ335778	East India Dock Basin	(MX) TQ391808
Bury Lake	(HR) TQ053938	LVRP site	
Bushy Park	(MX) TQ160690	East Sheen Common	(SY) TQ195745
Butter Hill, Carshalton	(SY) TQ281651	East Wickham	(KT) TQ468771
Canada Water	(IL/SY) TQ355793	Eden Park	(KT) TQ374675
Canons Farm	(SY) TQ248577	Edware Bury	(MX) TQ187943
Carlisle Park, Teddington	(MX) TQ136703	Ellenbrook Fields	(HR) TL205090
Cassiobury Park	(HR) TQ090970	Eltham Park, Eltham	(KT) TQ439753
Cely Woods	(EX) TQ560830	Enfield Chase	(MX) TQ290988
Charlton, Kent	(KT) TQ412782	Enfield Highway	(MX) TQ350968
Cheshunt GP	(HR) TL370030	Epping Green, Essex	(EX) TL436052
Where precise pit is not identified. LVRP site		Epping Green, Herts	(HR) TL297064
Chess Valley	(HR) TQ052961	Epping Thicks	(EX) TL445007
Childs Hill	(MX) TQ251866	Part of Epping Forest	
Chinbrook Meadows	(KT) TQ412718	Epsom Common	(SY) TQ190605
Chipping Barnet	(HR) TQ245958	Epsom Downs	(SY) TQ219582
Chorleywood Common	(HR) TQ033963	Esher Common	(SY) TQ135625
Church End	(MX) TQ248904	Fairlop Quarry NR	(EX) TQ462897
Clarence Park, St Albans	(HR) TL157073	Fairlop Waters	(EX) TQ459905

Tywford N	Walden R	Watts B, P	Widdowfield S	Woodhouse A
Ukiah B	Waldron P	Webb M, S	Widdowson D	Woodley C
Ulph R	Walker G, S	Weber M	Wigmore J	Woods F, P
Underwood S	Wallace D	Webster P	Wilcock S	Woods-Robinson K
Upton G, N	Walliker A	Weddell C	Wilcox J	Woodward R
Utting D	Wallis R	Weight B	Wilczur J	Wooldridge J
Utton BM	Walsh C, J, W	Weingarten S	Wildman M	Woolfenden S
Vale Countryside Volunteers	Walston J	Welland S	Wilkins P	Woolmore K
Vale M	Walters M	Weller R	Wilkinson A, S	Worsey M
Valeriani M	Walthamstow Birders	Wells J	Willems S	Worsfold S
Valley Birders	Wang E	Welsher B	Willett I	Worsley C, D
Van Der Veen N	Wanstead Birders	Wende S	Williams A, K, M, P, R	Wright B, D, G, M, N, T
Van Horn M	Warburton G	West I, R, S	Williamson J	Writer T
Vanderwerf E	Ward I, P	Westenberger A	Willis D, J	Wylson J
Vanhear S	Wardell A	Western J	Wilson A, B, G, I, K, N, R	Wyn-Jones H
Varney P	Wardman M	Weston H, N	Wiltshire M	Yaffy D
Vaughan B, H, L, P, R	Wareing J	Westwood C	Wimsett M	Yang J
Vicary G	Warner R	Whatley B	Window S	Yates J
Vine T	Warren D	Wheatcroft D	Winn A	York P
Visram T	Warrington S	Wheeler H	Winkworth M	Youdale M
Vocadlo L	Warwick J, N	Whelan J	Winstanley A	Younger G, R
Waddington J	Washbon J	Whitcomb J	Witherford S	Younger A, S
Waddoups S	Wasley A	White A, C, G, GJ, K, M, R	Withers J	Zadoya A
Wagner E	Wasse J	Whitehouse H	Wonfor D, R	Zanoletti M
Wakefield D, L	Waters B	Whitelegg D, I	Wood C, M, S, T	Zhang J
Wakeham K	Watling J	Whitfield A	Woodcock S	Zimmer D
Waking V	Watson I, IR, M	Whitworth G	Woodford N	Zollinger SA
	Watt A, B	Who H		Zumpe L

BIRDS OF THE LONDON AREA 2021



BIRDS OF THE LONDON AREA, 2021

WITH SOME ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS FOR PREVIOUS YEARS

A Report on Bird-life within 20 miles of St Paul's - the London Area

This section of the Report follows the British Ornithological Union (BOU) 9th Edition order and - with one exception - nomenclature; we have retained the common name Feral Pigeon. The Checklist of Birds of the London Area appears on pages 239-249.

The six vice-counties within the London Area are denoted in the report as follows: Essex or EX, Herts or HR = Hertfordshire, Middx or MX = Middlesex, Bucks or BU = Buckinghamshire, Kent or KT, Surrey or SY, and In Lond or IL = Inner London (the central rectangular area shown on the map on page 11). Other abbreviations are:

CP	= Country Park	PF	= Playing Field(s)
FB	= Filter Beds	PS	= Power Station
GC	= Golf Course	QE	= Queen Elizabeth
Gdn(s)	= Garden(s)	QE II	= Queen Elizabeth II
GP	= Gravel Pit(s)	Q. Mary	= Queen Mary
imm, juv(s)	= immature, juvenile(s)	Q. Mother	= Queen Mother
KGV	= King George V	R	= River
KGVI	= King George VI	RBBP	= Rare Breeding Bird Panel
LBR	= London Bird Report	Res	= Reservoir(s)
LNR	= Local Nature Reserve	RG	= Recreation Ground
LVRP	= Lee Valley Regional Park	SF/SW	= Sewage Farm/Works
NR	= Nature Reserve	SP	= Sand Pit(s)
N, S, E, W	= North, South, East and West	WeBS	= Wetland Bird Survey
OS	= Open Space	WR	= Wildfowl Reserve

Observer names are shown only against records for species which are rare in the London Area. To report an unusual bird, please download the new 'Details of an Unusual Bird (description form)' - see page 5 under [Links to files on the LNHS website: Recording > Recording Birds](#). A list of all the observers who have contributed records for 2021 appears on pages 24-30.

All running totals of rare or unusual birds that are provided in the systematic list refer to occurrences since 1900.

The term 'Lower Thames' is used for the section of the R Thames from the Thames Barrier to the eastern edge of our recording area. The term 'West London reservoirs' is used for the following reservoirs: Island Barn, KGVI, QE II, Q. Mary, Q. Mother, Staines, Walton and Wraybury.

Status refers to the status of a species in the London Area - not in the UK as a whole.

Previous page: The Lea Valley is probably the best place to see wintering Bittern in London. (Rudraksha Chodankar)

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

Status: occasional migrant and winter visitor.

A probable minimum of 95 birds, including at least four sound-recorded in March on nocturnal migration (nocmig), were counted this year at 16 sites. The vast majority were in the first winter period, with just 11 seen in the last three months of the year. The total was broadly similar to the previous two years (probably just over 100 at 23 sites in 2020 and exactly 100 at 12 sites in 2019).

Two birds were at Rainham Marshes on January 1st, one at Walthamstow Wetlands on the 6th, and a juvenile at both Crayford Marshes and Dartford Marshes on the 17th; this latter bird was also at Dartford on the 22nd and Crayford on the 28th. A single was at Q. Mother Res on the 20th and then four seen there on the 24th were also seen soon after flying south-east over Staines. Seven went upriver past Swanscombe Marshes on the 27th and one was at Staines Res on the 29th. The next record was not until March 1st, when a flock of 13 was observed at Banbury Res, Walthamstow Wetlands and later at KGV Res. A single was at the latter site on the 6th and a flock of 25 was seen from there the next day, when a flock of 20 was also reported from Rainham Marshes. Singles were at Walthamstow Wetlands and on a school playing field adjacent to the site on the 8th (also seen on the 12th) and at Crossness on the 9th, then on the night of the 10th a flock was sound recorded over Wallington. There were further nocmig records from West Ealing on the 15th and of at least two birds from Wallington again on the 17th. A single was at Q. Mother Res on the 26th and the last record of the first winter period was one on the river at Rainham Marshes on April 2nd.

The first returning bird was at Q. Mother Res on October 10th, followed by one at Rainham Marshes on the 13th and 14th and another there on the 21st and 23rd. One was at the London Wetland Centre on November 6th, then singles were recorded at Rainham Marshes on the 22nd, Walthamstow Wetlands on the 26th and the London Wetland Centre on the 27th, where another was seen on December 20th. On the 30th one was at Island Barn Res and two were at QEII Res, with the final record of the year being these three birds seen together at the latter site the following day.

SUBSPECIES: **Pale-bellied Brent Goose *B. b. hrota***

An adult at Q. Mother Res in November was just the fourth accepted record of this form in the London Area, following records in 1998, 2003 and 2010.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, adult on Nov 27th (CDR Heard).

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

Status: very common, introduced breeding resident.

Year-on-year breeding records went up again this year (289 broods from 110 sites compared with 266 from 127 in 2020 and 237 from 124 in 2019), but differences in observer coverage during the breeding season following the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions may have been a factor. The latest Breeding Bird Survey results suggest numbers have been stable in London over the last ten years.

Below are breeding records for sites with three or more pairs/broods (number in brackets is broods unless stated), and the highest counts from sites where more than 300



*Mandarin Duck is a tree-nesting self-sustaining exotic that originates in the Far East.
(Rudraksha Chodankar)*

female with 17 ducklings on Jul 3rd. Ellenbrook Fields (1). Essendon (1). Grove Mill (1). Hatfield (1).

Middx: Beech Hill Lake (2). Bushy Park, 30 on Oct 6th. Forty Hall (1). Forty Hill (1). Grovelands Park (3); 35 on Sep 25th. Hampstead Heath (1); 60 on Jan 11th. Hurlingham Park (2). Little Britain Lake, c30 on Dec 1st. Oakwood Park (1). Totteridge Valley (3). Trent Park (4). Twickenham, 41 on Nov 19th at Kneller Gdns. Whitewebbs Wood (1). Wildwoods, Enfield (2); 36 on Oct 21st.

Bucks: Black Park (1). Farlows Lake (1+); c30 on Dec 1st. Rowley Farm (2).

Kent: Beckenham Place Park (2). Cornmill Gdns (1). Kelsey Park, 29 on Dec 14th. R Pool Linear Park (1).

Surrey: Epsom Common (3). Kew Gdns (1). Leatherhead (1). Richmond Park (2), 14 ducklings on Jun 18th; 40 on Jan 2nd.

In Lond: Battersea Park (2); 24 on Dec 1st. Regent's Park, 25 on Nov 22nd.

Garganey Spatula querquedula

Status: scarce passage migrant, rare in winter; occasionally breeds. **RBBP**

The first migrants were two at Cornmill Meadows on March 16th (March 27th last year). This was followed by two males and a female at Horton Brook Quarry and two at Streatham Common on March 20th and one male at Staines Moor on March 29th.

During April and May, two males and a female were seen at Rainham Marshes on April 1st and 2nd, two males at Swanscombe Marshes on April 30th and four birds at Beddington Farmlands on May 3rd. A male was present for four days at Hall Marsh Scrape and singles were seen at the London Wetland Centre, Rainham Marshes, Rye Meads, Seventy Acres Lake, Walthamstow Wetlands and Wraysbury GP.

In June, there were singles at Rye Meads (18th, 21st and 22nd), possibly the same bird, with one at Coopers Green GP on July 1st. No evidence of breeding was observed.

The first presumed returning bird was seen at Wanstead Flats on July 14th (July 8th last year). Others followed from July 17th at (sites ordered by date of first record) Rye Meads, London Wetland Centre, Beddington Farmlands, Rainham Marshes, Walton Res (Knight & Bessborough), Ingrebourne Valley, Brent Res, Stain Hill Res, Weald CP and Island Barn Res. All records were of single birds but gaps in sightings suggest more than one bird may have passed through some of these sites and hence the total number of birds is unclear. The last record was two birds at KGV Res on October 9th (October 24th last year).

Birds were recorded at 25 sites this year, compared with 19 sites in both 2020 and 2019.

Shoveler Spatula clypeata

Status: common passage migrant and winter visitor, scarce breeder, with small numbers recorded in summer. **RBBP**

As usual, most of our wintering population had left by late April and began to return in mid-August. This year, Rainham Marshes was the only site to record numbers of national significance (190). The peak count there was 308 on March 14th, compared to 417 in 2020. Broadwater Lake however almost reached the threshold with 187 on December 30th. At Staines Res the peak count of 117 was substantially lower than previous years (448 in 2020, 310 in 2019, and 340 in 2018).

At Rainham Marshes, 30 pairs were present during the breeding season and 12 broods were seen, five fewer than the last breeding survey in 2019. London Wetland Centre and Swanscombe Marshes also recorded one brood each, and a breeding attempt was believed to have occurred at Rye Meads but failed. As usual, a few birds summered elsewhere. The table below gives monthly figures for the key sites. Below that are significant records from other sites.

was once one of its UK strongholds. Even ten years ago, three London sites had counts of ten or over. This decline is being seen right across the UK as climate change means this stunning duck is increasingly wintering closer to its breeding quarters.

All records are listed below. At Cheshunt GPs, some of the records may relate to a presumed escape female present in this area in recent years, although this bird was not reported from any of the other sites it usually frequents in the summer.

Essex: KGV Res, male from Jan 17th to Apr 11th. Orsett Fen, male on Jan 4th

Herts: Amwell NR, female from Nov 26th to Dec 14th. Cheshunt GPs, male from Jan 1st to Mar 22nd, imm male from Nov 28th to Dec 24th, female from Jan 2nd to May 3rd, Sept 4th and from Nov 11th until end of year.

Middx: Staines Res, male on Feb 12th.

Bucks: Wraysbury GP, male from Jan 26th to Feb 19th with two males on Jan 27th and Feb 18th.

Surrey: London Wetland Centre, male on Dec 21st. Thorpe Water Park, imm male on Dec 31st.

Goosander *Mergus merganser*

Status: regular winter visitor, very rare in summer.

A peak count of 29 at Weald CP in December was the highest total in London since 2015. Six sites - the same as last year - recorded counts of over ten. The final bird of the first winter period was at Q. Mother Res on May 20th - 12 days later than last year - and the first returner was one at Amwell NR on the exceptionally early date of August 20th. Peak counts of eight or more for both winter periods are listed below.

Essex: Hooks Marsh Lake, 11 on Dec 19th. KGV Res, 15 on Feb 5th & 16th and 18 on Dec 13th. Weald CP, 29 on Dec 4th & 9th.

Herts: Turnford Marsh GP, 12 on Jan 16th and Dec 10th.

Bucks: Wraysbury GP, nine on Jan 10th.

Kent: Sevenoaks WR, 11 on Mar 8th.

Surrey: QE II Res, 16 on Feb 2nd and 12 on Dec 27th.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

Status: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

Another terrible year with no more than five birds although slightly better than 2020 when there were only two one-day records. Before last year's dismal showing, the lowest annual number of birds in the previous decade was 13 which gives some indication of how rare this sawbill has become in London.

Essex: KGV Res, pair from Mar 2nd-15th and one on Mar 21st.

Herts: Hilfield Park Res, two female/juv on Oct 22nd.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Status: formerly a widespread winter visitor and localised breeder of non-native origin; now much declined due to the nationwide eradication programme.

After consecutive years of just single one-day records, there were records from two sites

this year. As with the hesitancy to give details for these records, it is possible that other sightings may have been withheld. Despite opposition to the eradication programme, evidence given to the Bern Convention's Standing Committee late in 2021 suggested it was all but complete with fewer than 20 individuals left in the UK.

Essex: Undisclosed site, male on three dates.

Herts: Site withheld at request of finder, female from Apr 10th-29th and from May 4th-9th.

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

Status: breeding resident, of introduced origin.

Records were received from 128 sites (93 sites in 2020), with 73% of these sites being in the Essex, Hertfordshire and Middlesex sectors. All breeding records are given below

Red-legged Partridge are most often seen on the outskirts of London, but this bird was at Walthamstow Wetlands in April. (Phil Aylen)



Middx: 12 pairs from 12 sites. Brent Res, 32 on Sep 16th. KGV Res, 81 on Sep 13th.

Bucks: Two pairs at two sites.

Kent: Six pairs from six sites. Sevenoaks WR, 30 on Jan 27th.

Surrey: 14 pairs/broods from six sites. London Wetland Centre (3). Thorpe Water Park, 29 on Oct 10th. Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth) (6).

In Lond: Nine pairs from seven sites. Battersea Park (1). Burgess Park (1). Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (2). Regent's Park (2). St James's Park (1). Surrey Water (1). Victoria Park (1).

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

Status: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

This species was just seen at Staines Res for an extended period and presumably all sightings relate to the same two birds. The recent annual average is of around seven birds with two birds in 2020.

Middx: Staines Res, one on Nov 7th & 28th, two from Dec 1st-20th and one on 21st.

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

Status: passage and winter migrant and rare breeder. **RBBP**

At Hilfield Park Res, there were two pairs in May and five birds in late June when a nest with one egg was found but no young were seen for the second year running. There was a long-staying bird on Alexandra Lake in Wanstead Flats from May to November. Winter counts continue to increase at Staines Res and there were double-figure counts at William Girling Res in September.

Counts from the main sites are summarised in the following table and all other records are listed below.

Black-necked Grebe		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX	KGV Res	-	-	3	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	3
	William Girling Res	6	7	2	-	-	-	-	9	13	9	3	4
HR	Hilfield Park Res	-	8	8	8	4	5	4	1	2	1	-	-
MX	Staines Res	8	10	14	12	1	6	10	8	13	11	4	7

Essex: Holyfield Lake, four on Apr 26th and three on May 4th. Rainham Marshes, one from Aug 13th-25th. Roding Valley Meadows NR, three on Apr 20th. Walthamstow Wetlands, singles on Jun 16th and Jul 17th. Wanstead Flats, one from May 3rd to Nov 28th.

Herts: Amwell NR, two on May 21st. Cheshunt GP, one on May 4th. Rye Meads, two on Jul 7th. Stocker's Lake, one on Apr 23rd. Tyttenhanger GP, two on May 31st and Jun 1st with one until 3rd and two on Jul 4th.

Middx: Alexandra Park, juv on Jul 8th. KGV Res, singles on Nov 7th and Dec 12th.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, one on Feb 27th and three on Sep 4th.

Surrey: Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth), adult and two juvs on Aug 9th. Walton Res (Knight & Bessborough), one on Jun 26th.



This Black-necked Grebe spent several months on a small pond on Wanstead Flats. (Phil Ayles)

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

Status: scarce vagrant with birds from reintroduction schemes.

All birds are included, whether from reintroduction schemes, escapes, or wild birds. The wintering Beddington bird (blue GB35 from Knepp) was present from the start of the year to February 23rd. A different individual (metal ringed) was seen on the site for several days in March and April being joined by another bird on two occasions. All other records from Surrey are likely to be the same individuals. A high count of six over three sites in Essex on April 4th were likely to be from Knepp. An unringed bird was present at Rainham Marshes from June 30th to July 11th with the site also having two birds over in April.

Essex: Dagenham Chase, six over on Apr 4th. Davy Down, one on Apr 26th. Gidea Park, six over on Apr 4th. Hall Marsh Scrape, one (unringed) from Apr 14th-15th. Hainault GC, one on Apr 16th. Hornchurch, six over on Apr 4th. Rainham Marshes, singles over on five dates from Apr 13th-28th with two on 21st, one (unringed) from Jun 30th to Jul 11th, singles over on Sept 11th, Oct 17th & 21st. Romford, one on Apr 13th.

Herts: Cassiobury Park, one on Apr 25th. Rickmansworth, one (unringed) on Sep 7th. Stocker's Lake, one on Sep 8th (presumed same as Rickmansworth).



As with Great White Egret, Cattle Egret sightings continue to increase. (Dave Harris)

22nd. Cornmill Meadows, one on Jan 5th, two on Feb 15th, one on Mar 1st, 12th & 19th. Hall Marsh Scrape, one on seven dates from Jan 1st-15th, one on 17 dates from Feb 24th to Apr 2nd and one on Sep 27th. Holyfield Hall Farm, one on Nov 19th, 22nd & 26th. Hooks Marsh Lake, one on Jan 4th & 19th and one from Dec 18th-19th. KGV Res, eight on Oct 5th and three on 6th. Mar Dyke Valley, one on Jun 4th. Rainham Marshes, one on May 26th, Jun 12th and on 92 dates from Aug 10th to Dec 4th with monthly peaks of three in August and September, five in October and ten on Nov 7th. Walthamstow Wetlands, one on Aug 29th.

Herts: Amwell NR, four from Nov 9th-10th. Cheshunt GP, singles on Jan 1st, Mar 31st and Oct 8th. Stocker's Farm, one on May 16th. Seventy Acres Lake, one on Oct 9th.

Middx: Harefield, one on Oct 25th. Woodberry Wetlands, two on Aug 29th.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, five on Oct 16th.

Kent: Orpington, one on Nov 25th. Sevenoaks WR, one on Nov 26th.

Surrey: London Wetland Centre, one on Oct 5th. Hersham GP, three on 16 dates from Oct 21st to Dec 30th, which roosted on the towers with Cormorants at QE II Res for part of their stay.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Status: common breeding resident.

Counts were made at 48 heronries, nearly back up to numbers before the pandemic (53 in 2019), however, the total number of nests, 394 was far lower (471 in 2019). Regent's Park saw a substantial decrease with 12 nests, down from 28 nests in 2020 and 22 in 2019. Walthamstow Wetlands continues to be the stronghold with 32 nests but also showed a substantial decrease, down from 45 in 2020 and 44 in 2019 and its peak of 138

in 1993. At Bookham Common, although there were 16 nests, worryingly only four were considered to be successful. Reports may not have been received from all heronries but breeding Buzzards at Horton CP (four nests in 2020) were suspected to have led to the heronry being abandoned. There were a number of new heronries: Orlitts North Lake in Buckinghamshire, Greenford in Middlesex and four in Surrey (Beddington Farmlands where the nest was in reeds, Bourne Hall Park, Epsom Common although the nests were abandoned and Ewell Court Park).

Outside the breeding season, the peak count was 38 at Dagenham Chase in October compared to 36 at Beddington Farmlands in September 2020.

Grey Heron nests 2012-2021

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
No. of nests	367	352	381	366	398	388	462	471	-	394

Below are breeding records with the number of nests in brackets and significant counts away from known colonies or outside the breeding season. The LNHS thanks the BTO for permitting the use of data from its Heronries Census.

Grey Heron. (Phil Aylen)



Tyttenhanger GP, singles on Mar 11th and Oct 23rd. Verulamium Park, one on Jun 27th.

Middx: Alexandra Park, singles on Jun 30th and Nov 3rd. Broadwater Lake, singles on Aug 31st, Dec 1st, 4th & 5th. Duncan's Wood, one on Feb 26th and Mar 4th-5th. Ickenham Marsh, one on Feb 14th. Northolt, three on Feb 14th. Park Farm, Enfield, one on seven dates from Feb 27th to Mar 9th. Q. Mary GP, one on Mar 6th. Staines Res, one on Jul 16th. Ten Acres, Yeading, one on Feb 13th and three from Feb 14th-15th. Tottenham Marshes, one on 13 dates from Feb 19th to Mar 4th. Woodberry Wetlands, one on Aug 31st.

Bucks: Denham, one on Mar 5th. Iver Heath, one on Mar 2nd. Tilehouse North Lake, one from Jan 8th-9th.

Kent: Bexleyheath, two on Nov 8th. Crayford Marshes, one on Mar 20th & 31st. Crossness, one on Apr 12th. Dartford Marshes, one on Mar 9th, 15th & 19th, two on Mar 23rd, singles on Apr 13th and Sep 25th. Lamorbey Park, one on 19 dates from Feb 19th to Mar 14th. Otford, one from Feb 27th-28th and Mar 2nd, two from Mar 6th-7th, one on Apr 14th & 24th. Sevenoaks WR, two on Feb 26th, singles on Mar 11th & 14th, May 22nd and Aug 12th. Shoreham, one on Mar 14th. Sidcup, one on Feb 18th. Holly Oak Wood Park, one on Feb 20th. Swanscombe Marshes, one on Oct 11th. Upper College Farm, one on Mar 1st.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, two on May 1st, singles on May 8th, Sep 24th and two on Oct 10th. East Dulwich, one on May 28th. Richmond Park, one on Oct 23rd and Nov 1st. Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth), one on Dec 29th.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Status: scarce breeder and increasingly common winter visitor. **RBBP**

Breeding was confirmed from ten sites that all had nests in 2019 when there were no Covid-19 restrictions and Broadwater GP (last reported breeding in 2016). No reports were received from three sites that had breeding birds in 2019 (Isleworth Ait, Little Britain Lake and Upminster (Puddledock Fishery)). There was a total of 84 nests, down from 94 nests in 2019. The two highest nest counts in 2021 both showed a decrease from 2020: Walthamstow Wetlands (30 to 25) and Warren Gorge (18 to 8).

Outside the breeding season, the highest count of 55 came from Walthamstow Wetlands, up from the peak count of 36 from the site in 2020. They were recorded at six sites in Inner London with a peak count of five at Southwark Park.

Below are all records of nests with the number in brackets, together with some notable counts outside the breeding season and all records for Inner London. Once again, the LNHS thanks the BTO for providing data from its Heronries Census.

Essex: Clay Tye Wood (3). Netherhall GP (8). Rainham Marshes, 36 on Sep 10th. Walthamstow Wetlands (25); 55 on Aug 18th. Warren Gorge (8).

Herts: Aldenham CP, 20 on Dec 21st. Amwell NR (9). Stanborough Lakes (5). Stocker's Lake (13). Verulamium Park (9).

Middx: Broadwater Lake (2); 21 on Sep 24th.

Bucks: Wraysbury GP (1); 15 on Nov 6th.

Kent: Kelsey Park (1).

Little Egret in Wanstead Park. (Tony Brown)



Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

Status: regular winter visitor to parts of the area, scarce passage migrant and winter visitor elsewhere.

As usual, Essex and Hertfordshire produced the majority of records of this species, with two-thirds of the 104 records and all but two of the 17 counts of over 50 coming from these two sectors. During the first part of the year only Theobalds Park Farm in Hertfordshire held a regular wintering flock, and in the later part of the year only Fairlop Waters and Rainham Marshes had frequent records.

Just over a third of all records involved birds only seen, or heard, flying over, with nearly half of these being nocturnal migrants. This included cold weather movements during February, and both spring and autumn passage migrants. The last of the spring was 12 at Woodoaks Farm, Maple Cross on April 3rd, and the first of the autumn was at Coopers Green GP on July 1st.

Essex: Reported from 13 sites. Fairlop Waters, up to 21 on 13 dates from Nov 2nd to Dec 24th. Mollands Lane GP, 60 on Jan 2nd. Orsett Fen, 63 on Jan 4th. Rainham Marshes, 75 on Dec 17th and 150 on 18th.

Herts: Reported from 14 sites. Cuffley, 103 on Jan 27th. South Mimms, 100 over on Mar 11th. St Albans, 350 circling on Mar 13th. Theobalds Park Farm, on nine dates from Jan 7th to Feb 14th with a peak of 132 on Jan 8th. Tyttenhanger GP, 150 on Mar 11th and Apr 2nd.

Middx: Reported from eight sites. Harmondsworth, 75 in a field on Jan 30th. Staines Res, 70 N on Jan 29th.

Bucks: Colnbrook, one flew in from Q. Mother Res on Jul 24th, Q. Mother Res, one flew in from S on Oct 16th.

Surrey: Reported from six sites. Cheverells Farm, up to 27 from Feb 14th-16th.

In Lond: Primrose Hill, three on Sep 13th, four on Oct 18th and singles on Nov 4th & 9th.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

Status: passage migrant in variable numbers, and scarce winter visitor.

January and February saw seven days when at least six birds were reported from Dartford Marshes, Rainham Marshes or Swanscombe Marshes, with a maximum of 11 at Dartford Marshes on February 10th. Additional February records were one flying south at Beddington Farmlands on 9th and one flying west with Lapwings at Brook Farm, Upminster on 10th. A welcome increase, there was only one record in 2020 and four records in 2019.

Spring passage was light, involving just 20-30 birds between April 4th and May 14th with a peak of just four at Rainham Marshes on April 26th. Autumn passage was even lighter with just six individuals between September 3rd and October 15th. Records came from reservoirs and other localities across London as well as from sites on the Thames during these periods.

Most reports from the end of the year came from Rainham Marshes, where there were up to three from late October until December 5th. Away from the R Thames there were singles at Staines Res on December 3rd and Sevenoaks WR on December 20th.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

Status: localised breeder and winter visitor; common passage migrant.

Ringed Plover records during 2021 followed a very similar pattern to recent years, with most winter records coming from Thameside sites in Essex and Kent, and a far more widespread distribution across the whole area between March and September as passage migrants passed through reservoirs and gravel pits. Like last year, there were no records suggesting breeding.

The highest counts were from Rainham Marshes where there were 31 on June 1st and 30 on September 4th. Spring passage likely involved a minimum of 200 individuals between March 4th and June 15th, with around 160 on return passage between July 16th and early October.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Status: breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. **RBBP**

The first arrival of the year was recorded at Staines Res on March 8th, which is a very typical date. The mean average of first arrival dates from 2000 onwards is now March

Little Ringed Plover at Walthamstow Wetlands. (Ann Playford)



10th with first dates fluctuating between February 27th and March 16th.

Breeding pairs and summer presence was again predominately in Hertfordshire and Essex, although the total of 20 possible pairs was the lowest since 2012, which also had a total of 20 but with seven pairs confirmed.

Little Ringed Plover	Pairs confirmed breeding	Pairs probably breeding	Other pairs present	Total
Essex	2	0	3	5
Herts	2	2	3	7
Middx	0	0	1	1
Bucks	1	0	2	3
Kent	0	0	2	2
Surrey	0	1	1	2
Total	5	3	12	20

Spring passage seems to have peaked between the last few days of March and mid-April, and post breeding dispersal/autumn migration peaked during July. Peak counts were 13 at Coopers Green GP on March 29th and July 6th and Horton Brook Quarry on April 5th. The last sighting of the year was one at Beddington Farmlands on September 11th.

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*

Status: rare passage migrant.

Dotterels have only previously been recorded in the London Area on eight occasions, most recently in 2012, with this becoming the first year to produce more than one record. Four of the ten records have occurred between April 25th and May 7th and the remaining six have been between August 1st and September 16th.

The Hawley record becomes the earliest to be seen in London and the first for the Kent sector, while the one that flew through Staines Res was the fourth record for the site, and the sixth for the small area around Staines and Heathrow.

Middx: Staines Res, one calling flew S at 19:20 on Sep 9th (RE Innes, KL Purdey).

Kent: Hawley, one photographed on Apr 25th (GN Howard).

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Status: regular passage migrant.

Spring migrants passed through the area between April 9th and May 22nd, with the first one seen at Rainham Marshes. Peak passage was during the second half of April, with maximum counts of 12 at Rainham Marshes on 18th and 27th. In total, around 220-270 individuals were involved, which was very similar to recent years.

As usual, autumn passage was much lighter with about 50-60 passing through between July 10th and October 5th. The vast majority passed through before the end of August, with only two individuals seen after this, at the London Wetland Centre on September 21st and Banbury Res on October 5th. The maximum autumn count was 11 at QE II Res on August 9th.

In Lond: Regent's Park, 11 N on Apr 24th.



*Whimbrel in London are passage migrants, like this bird at Walthamstow Wetlands.
(Chris Farthing)*

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

Status: winter visitor and passage migrant.

Curlews were present along the R Thames in all months but, as usual, were very scarce in May and June. This year there were also records from sites away from the Thames in all months except November, involving 70 individuals, although the majority of these were during spring passage in April (22 birds) and autumn passage between the last few days of June and mid-September (33 birds).

The highest counts during the year were from Rainham Marshes where the maximum was 30 on November 18th. Away from the Thames, the highest number was a flock of six over Wanstead Flats and Leytonstone on September 5th.

In Lond: Primrose Hill, one NE on Apr 20th.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

Status: passage migrant in variable numbers, scarce in winter.

February records, perhaps involving the same single bird, came from Rainham Marshes on 6th and Dartford Marshes on 8th. One at Sevenoaks WR on March 5th then heralded a slow start to a spring passage that peaked in late April. Spring passage continued until May 29th, with at least 160 individuals passing through the area, although it could have been twice this number if there was a fast turnover through Thameside sites between



Sanderling are known to drop in on reservoirs on passage. This bird was at the QE II Res. (Dave Harris)

Essex: Rainham Marshes, singles on Apr 26th & 28th and Sep 11th.

Middx: Staines Res, one on May 12th.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

Status: rare passage migrant, predominantly occurring during May.

After an absence of spring records last year, there was one bird recorded this year at a typical time and favoured location.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, one on May 9th (D Warren, Z Pannifer *et al*).

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Status: passage migrant in variable numbers, rare in winter.

Around 73 birds were seen this year compared to 91 in 2020. Most of these occurred in spring with only 13 birds recorded in autumn.

The only winter sightings were at QE II Res on February 10th with probably the same bird at Walton Res (Knight & Bessborough) three days later. There were just two in April: at Staines Res on 21st and Rainham Marshes/Purfleet on 25th. May was the busiest month as usual with ten at Q. Mother Res and two at QE II Res on 3rd; eight at Rainham Marshes on 5th; three at KGV Res, five at Rainham Marshes and one at QE II Res on 8th with several probably staying into the next day. Six more arrived between 14th and 16th and then none until four at Thamesmead on 21st. Two lingered in the Thamesmead area on 22nd when another was found at QE II Res. After one at Staines Res on 23rd, there



Away from the river, Dunlin can be a tricky species to connect with, however the edges of reservoirs can be a good place to look for them as well as other waders. This bird was at Walthamstow Wetlands. (Chris Farthing)

were three at Rainham Marshes and Dartford Marshes on 26th with another one at QE II Res. Four more were at Rainham Marshes on 28th and the last northbound migrants were two at QE II Res on June 13th.

The first returning bird was at London Wetland Centre on July 31st, followed by one at Rainham Marshes the next day. Additional August sightings were singles at QE II Res on 10th and Staines Res on 15th, whilst at Rainham Marshes there were seven on 25th and one on 31st. The same site claimed the last bird of the year with one on September 8th.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Status: common passage migrant and winter visitor.

The highest count was 1,100 at Rainham Marshes in December. There is a considerable overlap between sites along this stretch of the Thames with some counts being made from opposite sides of the river. Over the past few years there has been a notable shortening of the overwintering period with very few birds now present in March and October.

Dunlin peak site counts along Lower Thames marshes

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX Rainham Marshes	967	934	15	6	1000	1100
KT Crayford/Dartford Marshes	300	820	10	8	45	900
Crossness	160	8	-	1	100	220

the millennium is about one bird a year. The October record was the first for that month and the latest ever in the London Area.

Roseate Tern arrival dates 1953-2021: 32 records, 47 birds

Month	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
No. of records	16	5	7	2	3	1
No. of birds	25	7	9	2	3	1

Middx: Staines Res, juv on the north basin on the evening of Oct 7th (RE Innes, KL Purdey).

Surrey: Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth), three calling birds circled over then flew towards QE II Res on Jun 6th (DM Harris, A Quinn).

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Status: common summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first were recorded on the late date of April 4th, when singles were at Crossness and Wraysbury GP (March 21st in 2020, March 23rd in 2019). On April 5th there were two birds at KGV Res and Walthamstow Wetlands, and up to three were at seven sites before the first double-figure count of 12 at Rainham Marshes on April 11th. Significant counts in the month include 100+ at Crossness on 26th and 135 at Rainham Marshes on 28th. In May, there were eight counts of more than 50 at Staines Res, including 93 on 4th and 115 on 10th. The highest count of June was 60 on 1st at Walthamstow Wetlands.

It was a poor breeding season this year, with no pairs reported from sites that usually host good numbers. At Staines Res, which had 27 pairs last year, the tern rafts were removed by Thames Water after being judged unfit for purpose and none bred. So the total of 95 pairs from 15 sites was the lowest this century (148 from 20 sites last year, 100 pairs from 19 sites in 2019). Greenwich Peninsula Ecology Park was the most productive with 20 pairs and 28 fledged (none reported in 2019) following the introduction of a new raft design.

As ever, it is difficult to separate post-breeding gatherings from autumn passage. A series of counts of 40-60 birds from Walthamstow Wetlands from July 9th to August 10th would almost certainly have included breeding birds from that site. Other high counts in July include 60 at Crossness on 7th, 80 on Crossness on 29th, 60 at Rainham Marshes on 30th and 50 at Crossway Lake NR on the same day.

In August, there was a peak of 60 birds at Walthamstow Wetlands on 7th then numbers fell sharply. There were only three counts of more than 20 in September, but they included the highest of the year: an impressive 250 on 14th at Rainham Marshes. The last two birds of the year were at Crossness on October 9th (October 31st in both 2020 and 2019).

Below are breeding numbers (pairs shown in brackets) with all records for Inner London.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (1). Seventy Acres Lake (1). South Ockendon (1), chick seen.

Valentines Park, pair present on Jun 16th & 30th and through July but no evidence of breeding. Walthamstow Wetlands (19), at least 12 young ringed at the beginning of July.

Herts: Amwell NR (7). Rye Meads (18), one chick fledged. Stocker's Lake (15), young seen.



Common Tern on the Thames at Rotherhithe. (Richard Bonser)

Middx: Brent Res (2). Staines (1), three young seen at Lammas Water. Sunnyside Res (1), two young seen.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res (3).

Kent: Greenwich Peninsula Ecology Park (20), 28 fledged.

Surrey: Leg O Mutton NR (4), two young seen. Richmond Park (1), young seen. Thorpe Water Park (1).

In Lond: Burgess Perk, one on Jul 26th. Greenland Dock, two on May 2nd. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, singles on Jun 15th, July 5th and Sep 13th. Rotherhithe, one on Aug 15th.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

Status: regular spring and autumn passage migrant, often in small flocks with numbers varying annually.

The first was at Amwell NR on the very late date of April 16th (April 5th in both 2020 and 2019, April 3rd in 2018). There was one at Staines Res on the following day and one at



Green Woodpecker feeds unobtrusively on the ground. (Phil Aylen)

Kensington Gdns, up to four on 11 dates from Jan 4th to May 3rd, one on five dates from Aug 5th to Dec 8th. Regent's Park, up to three on 26 dates from Jan 6th to Oct 14th.

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Status: uncommon breeding resident.

Kestrels were reported from 580 sites, up from 555 in 2020. The number of confirmed breeding pairs was 31, compared with 32 in 2020 and 31 in 2019. There were at least another 38 pairs making a minimum total of 69 territories (58 in 2020 and 71 in 2019). These figures fluctuate from year to year and the changes may be at least partly due to

differences in reporting. The highest count was eight at two sites (Dartford Marshes and Richmond Park).

As usual the vast majority of prey items noted were small rodents, with one instance of a small (unidentified) bird being successfully caught and another of a male attempting to catch House Sparrows.

Kestrel	Essex	Herts	Middx	Bucks	Kent	Surrey	In Lond	Totals
Territories	12	13	22	1	6	14	1	69
Proved	9	4	10	0	2	6	0	31

In Lond: Reported from 30 sites, up from 17 in 2020. University College London reported a bird apparently visiting a nest.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

Status: scarce migrant and winter visitor.

There were accepted records from just three sites this year, compared with the previous year's seven sites. As in previous years, Rainham Marshes was the most productive site with single birds being seen on three dates, but there was no strong evidence of any over-wintering birds there this year as two of the three records were in spring and hence likely to involve migrant birds.

A Kestrel in a rarely captured pose at Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth). (Dave Harris)



Surrey: Twelve pairs bred, of which four pairs fledged 11 juvs.
In Lond: Twelve pairs bred, of which seven pairs fledged 23 juvs.

Ring-necked Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*

Status: naturalised breeding resident, increasing in range and numbers.

Parakeets were reported from 544 sites in 2021, substantially down from the record 770 the previous year; this may be due to changes in coverage last year rather than a real change, e.g. increased coverage of local sites during lockdown walks. Reported observations were down between 21% and 39% in each sector, and counts at individual roosts were also lower. Middlesex and Surrey still accounted for over half of the reports. Most of the larger counts were of birds flying to or from roosts or sub-roosts. There were 14 reports of confirmed breeding and 16 of probable breeding, both down from last year.

Ring-necked Parakeet peak roost counts of 500 or more

HR	Stanborough Park/Lakes	1,114 (Jan)
	Stocker's Lake	582 (Nov)
MX	Ashford	825 (Sep)
	Hackney Marsh	750 (Nov)
SY	Kingston-upon-Thames (Athelstan Rec)	10,000 (Dec)
	Mitcham Common	2,650 (Nov)

For each sector, the number of sites where parakeets were reported and high counts (other than at the roosts listed above) are listed. These may also be at, or on the way to or from, roosts.

Essex: Reported from 73 sites. Wanstead Flats, 437 on Aug 27th.

Herts: Reported from 86 sites. Welham Green, 368 NW on Jul 2nd.

Middx: Reported from 148 sites. Brentford, 780 E at Ferry Quay on Oct 31st. Fryent CP, 522 N on Nov 1st. Hampstead Heath, 116 on Oct 2nd. Home Park, 1,000 W on Oct 10th.

Bucks: Reported from five sites. Denham, 88 on Jul 31st.

Kent: Reported from 70 sites. Danson Park, 400 on Apr 30th. Coldblow, 200+ on Oct 23rd, feeding in neglected sunflower field.

Surrey: Reported from 129 sites. Beddington Farmlands, 1,068 on Sep 26th. Berrylands 1,200+ NW on Jul 27th. Brockwell Park, 200 at roost on Nov 5th. Fairfield RG, 9,400 N on Oct 16th. Hogsmill SW, 2,700 SE on Oct 3rd. Ravens Ait, 2,200 NE on Dec 26th. Surbiton Cemetery, 10,000 S on Dec 11th.

In Lond: Reported from 33 sites. Battersea Park, 55 on Jan 22nd. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 150 on Jan 3rd. Primrose Hill, 56 NE on Aug 10th. St James's Park, 60 on Jan 3rd.

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

Status: rare passage migrant, most often in May.

There was just one accepted record this year. This is only the fourth since 2010, which is the last year when more than one bird was accepted. There were three further reports listed in App III for which descriptions would be very welcome.

Middx: Totteridge Valley, singing male on May 30th (S Levy).

Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

Status: common breeding bird, the resident population boosted by immigrants in the autumn and winter.

There were 21 reports of confirmed breeding and 36 of probable breeding, similar to the 17 and 38, respectively, in 2020. Most observations are of single birds or small groups, but larger flocks are apparent in autumn. Breeding records are shown for sites where breeding was confirmed or where the number of pairs was surveyed, as are non-breeding counts of ten or more (five or more in Inner London).

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (1). Cely Woods (1). Hangmans Wood (1). Ingrebourne Valley, 14 on Oct 2nd. Rainham Marshes (1); 44 on Sep 28th.

Herts: Brookmans Park, 11 on Oct 5th. Garston, 20 on Sep 22nd. Maple Lodge NR (1). Moor Lane (1). Munden Estate (1); 12 on Sep 26th. Wildhill, 12 on Oct 14th.

Middx: Bushy Park, 12 on Oct 14th. Cranford CP (1). Frith Manor Farm (1). Grovelands Park (1). Hampstead Heath, 25 on Sep 22nd. Home Park (4); 24 on Oct 10th. Southgate (1). Springwell Lake (1). Tottenham Marshes (2). Totteridge Valley (1); 27 on Oct 13th. Trent Park (1). Wormwood Scrubs, 10+ on Oct 7th.

Jays become easier to see in the autumn when they start to cache food.
 (Rudraksha Chodankar)



(Pilgrims Farm) (10). Titsey Hill (20). Titsey Park (total of 25 nests in two rookeries). Trevereux, 70 on Dec 13th.

In Lond: Bermondsey, one on Apr 12th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, one on Nov 7th. Primrose Hill, singles over on Apr 13th, Oct 24th and Nov 9th. Russia Dock Woodland, two on Feb 9th.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

Status: abundant breeding resident.

Breeding counts were received from ten sites, with the highest count of eight nests at Tottenham Marshes. Breeding was confirmed at 35 sites, including four in Inner London. One was seen eating a young rat in Wandle Park, Croydon on October 10th. Breeding records for sites with five or more pairs are shown below (no. of pairs in brackets) along with counts of 100 or more (50 in Inner London).

Essex: Aimes Green, Claverhambury, 400 on Jul 24th. Alexandra Lake, Thurrock, 100 on Jun 26th. Creekmouth, Barking, 186 on Mar 21st. Dagenham Chase, 208 on Apr 17th. Fishers Green, 200 on Feb 6th. Holyfield Hall Farm, 300 on Dec 20th. Leyton Flats, 100 on Apr 30th. Mar Dyke Valley, 106 on Sep 4th. Orsett Fen, 300 on Jul 16th. Rainham Marshes, 300 on Apr 2nd. Roding Valley Meadows NR, 110 on Dec 8th. Valentines Park, 146 on Jun 15th. Walthamstow Marshes, 130 on Feb 13th. Walthamstow Wetlands (6). Wanstead Flats, 265 on Apr 16th. William Girling Res, 180 on Apr 11th.

Herts: Coopers Green GP, 300 on Jul 11th. Coursers Farm, 250 on Jul 25th. Essendonbury, 119 on Apr 18th. Ladywalk Wood, 100 on Oct 28th.

Middx: Brent Res, 174 on Dec 23rd. Dollis Hill, 100 on Jun 12th. Fryent CP, 132 on Jul 31st. Hampstead Heath, 179 on Feb 23rd. Home Park, 125 on Oct 10th. Hurlingham Park, 200 on Feb 27th. Perivale Wood, 754 at roost on Jan 23rd. Potters Bar GC, 150 on Feb 6th. Tottenham Marshes (8). Totteridge Valley, 100 on Apr 1st & 8th. Vicarage Farm, 120 pre-roost on Feb 19th. Wormwood Scrubs, 243 on Mar 31st.

Kent: Beckenham Place Park, 101 on Apr 27th. Crayford Marshes, 120 on Mar 19th. Greenwich Park, 120 on Oct 18th. Lamorbey Park, 100 on Feb 21st. Plumstead Common, 225 on Nov 18th. Southmere Park, 132 on Mar 29th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, 572 on Aug 24th. Canons Farm, 300+ on Oct 21st. Hogsmill SW, 104 on Oct 3rd. London Wetland Centre, 212 on Nov 30th. Malden Rushett, 100 on Mar 29th. Mayflower Park, 200 on Feb 19th. Richmond Park, 100 on Aug 30th and Nov 6th. R Thames (Putney Bridge to Barnes Bridge), 250 on Apr 2nd. South Croydon, 120 on Mar 21st. Surbiton Cemetery, 250 on Dec 11th. Tooting Common, 165 on Apr 2nd. Wimbledon Common, 250 on Dec 9th.

In Lond: Brompton Cemetery, 60 on Nov 25th. Burgess Park (5); 162 on May 20th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 188 on Feb 23rd. Limehouse, 71 on May 30th. Shoreditch Park, 70 on Aug 23rd. Southwark Park, 80 on Mar 25th. Victoria Park, 80 on Dec 1st.

Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix*

Status: rare visitor.

This was the first record for five years and only the fifth since 1990. The other recent observations were single birds in 1990, 1991, 1997, 2010 and 2016, all in the Essex sector.

Hooded Crow is far out of range in London, and remains very rare indeed. This birds was at Rainham Marshes for a day in November. (Rudraksha Chodankar)

The 1991 bird was present for three weeks during February and March at Rainham Marshes but all the others were one day birds like this one.

Essex: Rainham Marshes, one NE on Nov 23rd (R Chodankar, T Goode).



Raven *Corvus corax*

Status: scarce but increasing visitor and recent breeder.

Reported throughout the year, mostly flying over, from 196 sites, continuing the rapid increase in observations of this species (159 in 2020, 113 in 2019, compared with 21 in

Raven sightings are increasing in London, with a small number of confirmed breeders. (Neville Smith)



Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, one on Jan 10th. Esher Common, singles from Feb 23rd-27th, May 27th and two on Oct 6th. Headley Heath, singles on Mar 9th, Apr 6th and May 11th. Priest Hill NR, one on Feb 26th. Putney Heath, one on Dec 15th & 22nd. Richmond Park: one from 2020 still present to Jan 24th; from Feb 5th-21st there were 1-3 birds present; two on Oct 22nd; one from Nov 1st-23rd. Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth), one on Feb 20th. Wimbledon Common, one from Oct 24th to Dec 22nd.

2020 Addition

Essex: Purfleet, one on seawall on Oct 15th.

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla*

Status: scarce passage migrant and winter visitor; rare breeder.

This year there were reports from 119 sites, very similar to the 124 last year. Breeding was likely at one site in Hertfordshire, where a pair was noted on several occasions in spring and a juvenile in summer. Additional territories were noted at seven sites: one in Essex, one in Kent and five in Surrey (with one site having three pairs). Last year there were 17 pairs at eight sites, so there is a decrease this year.

Firecrest: number of sites

	Essex	Herts	Middx	Bucks	Kent	Surrey	In Lond	Totals
Jan-Mar	17	3	12	0	13	21	0	66
Oct-Dec	10	5	11	0	13	17	1	57
Jan-Dec	25	12	22	0	22	37	1	84

In the first winter period, thirteen sites had birds for prolonged periods: Abney Park Cemetery LNR, Chislehurst Common, Coldfall Wood, Garden Wood, Grovelands Park, Highgate Wood, Oxleas Wood, R Pool Linear Park, Totteridge Valley, Wanstead Flats, Waterworks NR, Watermeads and Wimbledon Common. In April, there were reports from 16 sites, then 14 in May, three in June and five in July.

There were two records in August, of which one was on August 20th at the London Wetland Centre. This was followed by seven records in September. From October, the numbers increased and there were long-staying birds at Alexandra Park, Banstead Wood, Chislehurst Common, Foots Cray Meadows, Oxleas Wood, Richmond Park, Totteridge Valley, Wimbledon Common and Woodcote (Purley).

The largest numbers reported were seven at Sutton at Hone on February 11th, five at Oxleas Wood on October 11th and five at Petts Wood on October 19th.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

Status: breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

This year 75 territories were reported, the same as last year. There was an increase in the number of sites where ten or more birds were reported, with 57 this year compared with 33 last year.

Breeding records are given below for sites where two or more territories or singing males (no. in brackets) were reported, plus the total number of territories in each sector, along with counts of over ten and a summary for Inner London.

Essex: Nine territories. Belhus Woods CP (2); 15 on Jan 7th, 13 on Aug 1st, ten on Oct 10th. Copped Hall, at least ten on Mar 17th. Grays Cemetery (2). Havering CP, 12 on Jan 23rd.

Herts: 18 territories. Munden Estate (4); 15+ on Feb 12th. Symondshyde Great Wood, 15+ on Jan 7th.

Middx: 19 territories. Alexandra Park, 10+ on Dec 13th. Brent Res, 11 on Feb 11th. Fulham Palace (2). Hampstead Heath, 18 on Feb 4th. Monken Hadley Common (2). Totteridge Valley; 22 on Jan 15th, then over ten on multiple dates until the end of March, 12 on Aug 12th, ten on Sep 3rd & 6th, 20 on Dec 30th.

Kent: Six territories. Crystal Palace Park (2). Fooks Cray Meadows, 20+ on Feb 23rd. Greenwich Park (3). Lamorbey Park; 15+ on Jan 8th, ten from Sep 3rd-17th, 10+ from Oct 2nd-26th. Martens Grove, 10+ on Oct 28th. Oxleas Wood; 12 on Jan 21st, 12 on Feb 2nd, 13 on Feb 4th. Swanscombe Marshes, 11 on Feb 4th.

Surrey: 23 territories. Canons Farm (2). Beddington Farmlands, ten on Jan 17th. Esher Common (4). Kew Gdns; 14 on Jan 23rd, ten on Jan 31st, ten on Feb 21st, 11 on Sep 26th, 26 on Dec 23rd. Riddlesdown (2). Sanderstead (2). Warlingham (3).

In Lond: No territories. Battersea Park; five on May 11th, six on Sep 30th. Holland Park, four on Oct 9th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, four on Oct 3rd. Regent's Park, four on Aug 11th. Southwark Park, four from Feb 26th to Mar 25th.

Goldcrest. (Rudraksha Chodankar)





Starling. (Phil Ayles)

with 111 at Brent Res and 165 at Hampstead Heath. Passage grew heavier throughout October with over 2,000 recorded across several sites on October 24th, including 1,182 flying south at Banstead. There was only one count of over 2,000 migrating birds in October at Rainham Marshes, then more from November 4th to 6th. The peak day count was 2,904 on November 5th, with over 1,200 seen at Plumstead Common consisting of multiple flocks of around 250 birds flying west. Signs of migration then immediately decreased to around 300 birds on the following day. The final high count was 214 at Walthamstow Marshes on November 16th. These numbers seem lower than the previous few years, but that could be due to the number of observers rather than the number of birds. We would welcome more migration records next year.

Below are some of the highest counts and some breeding records.

Essex: Bonnett's Wood (2). Hangman's Wood (8). Hornchurch, 1,000 on Apr 27th. North Ockendon, c2,000 on Jan 21st feeding in an unploughed field. Rainham Marshes; monthly peaks of 3,000 on Jan 1st, 2,500 on Mar 26th, 2,500 on Aug 20th & 27th, 2,000 on Sep 8th, 2,500 on Oct 30th, 1,500 on Nov 7th and 2,500 on Dec 28th. Wanstead Flats; 1300+ on Oct 24th. Walthamstow Wetlands (2).

Herts: Coopers Green GP, 2,000 on Dec 4th. Frogmore Lakes (6). Hertford (5). Tyttenhanger GP, 2,000+ roosting on Jul 8th and 1,500 on Aug 17th.

Middx: Hampton (2). Pinner (7). Staines Res, 1,550 on Jun 6th.

Kent: Crossness, 1,000+ on Jul 29th & 30th. Crossway Lake NR, 1000 on Jul 30th. Plumstead Common, 1,241 in flocks flying W on Nov 5th.

Surrey: Ashted (30). Banstead, 1,182 flying SW on Oct 24th. Beddington Farmlands, 1,000

post-breeding flock feeding on Jul 31st. Richmond Park; 1,000+ on May 28th, 1,500 on Oct 24th, 1,090 on Oct 25th, 1,220 on Nov 4th. Sanderstead (5). Warlingham (2).
In Lond: Burgess Park (3). Paddington (1+). Primrose Hill, 540 on Nov 9th. St Pancras (1).

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

Status: regular passage migrant, but never common.

Spring passage began on March 29th, ten days later than in 2020, with singles sighted at Chalk Wood (Swanley), Dagenham Chase, Manor Farm (Upminster) and Staines Moor. The last birds of the spring passage were also sighted at Dagenham Chase on the May 6th, ten days earlier than in 2020 and similar to 2019. After removing the possibility of double counting, 62 birds were reported over this period, which is almost double the 33 from 2020, but close to the average of 60 birds reported over the last ten years. The peak counts were of seven birds on April 10th and 20th.

Autumn passage started on October 1st, over two weeks later than in 2020, with one sighted flying south at Mar Dyke Valley. The last was sighted at Holmethorpe SP on November 14th, two weeks earlier than in 2020. During this period, 40 birds were seen

A terrific photo of a Ring Ouzel on the sea wall at Rainham Marshes in April. (Russ Sherriff)





Spring Whinchat passage was higher in 2021 than in 2020. (Peter Gasson)

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

Status: regular passage migrant and former breeding summer visitor.

Spring passage consisted of 69 birds recorded across 39 sites (39 across 22 sites in 2020), with the earliest at Hounslow Heath on April 9th, the same date as last year's earliest bird. The last bird in spring was on May 29th at Alexandra Park.

Autumn passage began extremely early, with a trickle of birds from late June. The earliest were a female at Vicarage Farm on June 23rd and a male in Brockwell Park on 30th June; these are the earliest autumn records in at least the last ten years. Peak passage was back to typical levels after 2020's moderate numbers, with 59 birds at 16 sites on September 4th and 56 birds at 18 sites (including 14 birds at Staines Moor alone) on September 5th. From September 19th, numbers were down to single figures and the last bird was one at Staines Moor on October 18th, an unremarkable date in line with previous years. Below are all Inner London records.

In Lond: Primrose Hill, one on May 11th. Regent's Park, one from Aug 31st to Sep 1st.

Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola*

Status: localised breeding resident, regular passage migrant and winter visitor.

This species' increased presence at the end of 2020 (maybe due to increased patch-watching during the pandemic) continued into the beginning of 2021. The maximum citywide count in a day was 55 on January 2nd, and records came from 72 sites in January and 72 sites in February (110 separate sites overall, compared with 96 in 2020).

Breeding was confirmed at two sites, with six pairs fledging young at Richmond Park

and one pair at Rainham Marshes. Three other sites had records throughout the breeding season, though with not enough detail to determine number of pairs or breeding success. Four other sites had records of juveniles in midsummer, but whether these fledged locally is unknown.

Autumn passage was far less notable than in 2020, with a maximum daily count of 53 on October 10th and 23rd (121 in 2020). After the previous excellent winter for Stonechat, December also saw a return to more usual figures, with 35 sites recording birds (62 in 2020) and a maximum daily count of 21 birds at Wanstead Flats on 20th December (48 in 2020).

Below are breeding records (no. of territories in brackets) and all Inner London records.

Essex: Rainham Marshes (1).

Surrey: Richmond Park (6); 25 fledged young.

In Lond: Burgess Park, female on Oct 10th. Primrose Hill, one on Feb 23rd. Regent's Park, two on Oct 11th.

Stonechat from Walthamstow Wetlands. (Ann Playford)



7th and 40 to roost on Nov 29th. Victoria Park, nesting colony along nearby Regent's Canal in old brickwork.

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Status: scarce breeding resident, confined to one site; occasional passage migrant or dispersing visitor.

It is very sad to report that Tree Sparrow did not breed at the traditional sites in the Coursers Farm area this year, where they have bred since at least the late 1990s. There were eight nests in 2020, with a peak of 31 nests in 2010. The reasons for the decline are unclear, but disturbance from gravel extraction and higher visitor numbers due to Covid-19 restrictions will not have helped. There are many parallels with the Beddington colony, where breeding last occurred in 2018. At both sites, much effort had been put into retaining the colony, but small, isolated colonies are likely to be unsustainable. Encouragingly, conservation measures at nearby Colney Heath did result in seven pairs nesting, but this colony may well suffer a similar outcome. Elsewhere, they were seen at two sites (four last year).

Essex: Holyfield Hall Farm, six on Nov 20th. Mar Dyke Valley, one on May 1st.

Herts: Colney Heath, seven nests fledged 14 young. Coursers Farm area, up to six throughout the year but only two in December.

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*

Status: abundant breeding resident.

There are six sites where we have breeding counts for both this year and last year - five have shown a decrease and one an increase. The Breeding Bird Survey shows no significant changes in London from 1995-2020. Breeding records are given below for sites where ten or more territories or singing males were recorded, along with some of the higher counts.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (15); 26 on Oct 10th. Mar Dyke Valley (19); 26 on Oct 18th. Rainham Marshes (24); 25 on Apr 4th.

Herts: Croxley Common Moor, 17 on Apr 21st. Sleepshyde, 15 on Apr 26th. Stocker's Lake, 28 on May 2nd.

Middx: Brent Res, 27 on Feb 21st. Hampstead Heath, 11 on Sep 18th. Minet CP, 19 on Feb 26th. Warren Farm Sports Centre, 12 on Feb 26th. Woodberry Wetlands, 12 on Apr 18th. Wormwood Scrubs, 30 on Feb 22nd.

Kent: Chelsfield, 11 on Feb 14th. Darenth Lakes, 12 on May 16th. Hawley, 11 on Feb 23rd. Swanscombe Marshes, 18 on Feb 21st.

Surrey: Ashted Common (20). Beddington Farmlands (66). Canons Farm (14). Elmbridge OS, 20 on Oct 26th. Woodmansterne, 28 on Feb 15th.

In Lond: Reported from ten sites (24 in 2020). Burgess Park, eight on Apr 19th.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

Status: common passage migrant and decreasing, now scarce, breeder.

The first bird of the year arrived at Upminster on March 28th (the same date as last year), then records were almost daily during the spring passage. There were 14 records



Yellow Wagtail is a most often encountered as a passage migrant. (Rudraksha Chodankar)

of ten or more birds. There was only one such count in 2020 and 2019, but there were five in 2018, four in 2017 and 12 in 2016. The highest day count for the year was 74 at Coopers Green GP on April 28th, which is high for the time of year.

Breeding was confirmed at six sites, with at least 22 pairs present at eight sites, all in Essex or Hertfordshire (nine sites in 2020, one in 2019, three in 2018 and two in 2017). Orsett Fen seems to be the most consistently reported breeding site for this species, with six territories reported here this year and between two and four territories every year since 2014.

The autumn passage saw 13 counts of at least ten birds, which is lower than in recent years (27 in 2020, 30 in 2019, 40 in 2018 and 23 in 2017). The last bird was recorded at Brook Farm, Upminster on November 1st.

In total, birds were recorded at 140 sites. Below are the breeding records (no. of territories in brackets) and all Inner London records.

Essex: Manor Farm, Upminster (3). North Ockendon (4). Orsett Fen (6). West Horndon (5).

Herts: Coopers Green GP (1). Hilfield Park Res (1). Nashe's Farm (1). Tyttenhanger GP (1+).

In Lond: Burgess Park, one on Apr 18th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, one on Apr 24th.

Primrose Hill, two on Aug 10th and Sep 16th. Russia Dock Woodland, one on Sep 15th.



(4). Orsett Fen (4). Rainham Marshes (29). Roding Valley Meadows NR (1+). Walthamstow Marshes (1). Walthamstow Wetlands (1). Warren Gorge (1). Waterworks NR (2).

Herts: Reported from 57 sites, 13+ pairs. Cheshunt GP (1). Coopers Green GP (1). Coursers Farm (1). Croxley Moor (1). Ellenbrook Fields (1+). Frogmore Lakes (1-2). Hilfield Park Res (1). Ladywalk Wood, 38 on Jan 9th. Park Street (1). Rye Meads (1+); peak of 20 on Oct 9th & 16th. Stanborough Reedmarsh (2). Stocker's Lake (1). Tyttenhanger GP (1+). Woodoaks Farm, Maple Cross, 21 on Jan 9th.

Middx: Reported from 41 sites, 14 pairs. Alexandra Park, one on Oct 24th. Brent Res (1). Bushy Park (3). East India Dock Basin, one on Dec 18th. Fir & Pond Woods (1). Hampstead Heath, singles on Oct 11th & 16th and two SW on Nov 2nd. Home Park (1). Horsendon Hill (1). Kempton NR (1). Newton Park West (1). Northolt & Greenford CP (1). Staines Moor (1+). Ten Acres, Yeading (2). Tufnell Park, one over on Sep 25th. Woodberry Wetlands (1). Wormwood Scrubs, one on Feb 22nd, two W on Mar 31st and one on Apr 16th.

Bucks: Reported from five sites.

Kent: Reported from 16 sites, 5+ pairs. Crossness (2+). Sevenoaks WR (1). Swanscombe Marshes (2); peak of 17 on Mar 2nd.

Surrey: Reported from 28 sites, 41+ pairs. Beddington Farmlands (3). Esher Common (2). Fetcham Mill Pond (1). Hogsmill OS (1). Holmethorpe SP (1+). Horton CP (1). London Wetland Centre (10). Morden Hall Park (1). Richmond Park (15); peak of 12 on Sep 6th & 24th. Surbiton (1). Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth) (10).

In Lond: Burgess Park, two on Mar 21st and singles on Mar 31st and Apr 14th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, two on Mar 21st and one singing on 23rd. Paddington Green, one over on Mar 17th. Primrose Hill, a total of 15 over on seven dates from Oct 12th to Nov 10th, with peak of five on Oct 12th.

Dark-eyed Junco *Junco hyemalis*

Status: rare vagrant.

Present in a Chiswick garden since late November 2020, London's first Dark-eyed Junco overwintered and remained until mid-April. However, Covid-19 restrictions meant that news of the locality was withheld.

In Lond: Chiswick, one from 2020 until Apr 16th (L Dunk *et al*).

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Previous page: Red-necked Grebe remains the hardest of the UK Grebes to connect with in London. The larger reservoirs offer the best chance, with this bird being at KGV Res in December. (Henry Wyn-Jones)

RINGING REPORT

DANIEL WHITELEGG



*Juvenile Wheatear seen at Rainham Marshes in August from the Calf of Man.
(Russell Sherriff)*

In London bird ringing is undertaken by a range of groups, partnerships and individuals covering a wide range of sites throughout the capital. Full details of ringing in 2021 can be found on the BTO website at:

<https://www.bto.org/our-science/projects/ringing/publications/online-ringing-reports>

Numbers of many species ringed vary year on year due to a range of factors such as ringer effort and coverage or weather conditions, which can have a marked effect on catching success and final totals for any year. These variable reasons mean that any changes in species figures in this type of report are not a reflection on population levels but more often on ringer activity. A much better reflection of population levels is through Constant Effort Sites (CES) and there is a number running in the London area; the data are pooled nationally and can be found on the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) website: <https://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/ringing/surveys/ces>

Table 1 gives totals for each species and annual totals are also given for the previous two years to enable comparison.

Though some notable species were ringed this year, both the lowest totals and the lowest diversity in species were recorded. Of the 93 species ringed, 44 saw an increase on 2020, the largest of which were for Reed Warbler (up 287) and Sand Martin (up 237). Despite this, there were larger decreases across the board, especially Starling (down

FOREIGN-RINGED BLACK-HEADED GULLS, 2013-2022: A SUMMARY

MIKE TRIER

Data on foreign-ringed Black-headed Gulls, observed in four Inner London parks and three in Middlesex, has been collected and provided by Alan Gibson.

Alan had been observing and recording the gulls since before 2000. In 2013 he submitted his data for that year, which was published in the London Bird Report (*Lond. Bird Rep.* 78:186-187). It was also made available on worksheets on the LNHS website, added to annually to form these cumulative spreadsheets covering the ten successive years 2013-2022.

The worksheets are arranged in order of: date; metal ring number; plastic ring markings; and country in which the gull was originally ringed. A final worksheet, 'Winters analysis', charts the longevity of the gulls, based on the first year during which Alan observed them.



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Notes to the spreadsheets

Winters periods run from October in one year to March in the next year; so a date 2013-1 was in winter period 2012-2013 whereas a date 2013-10 was in winter period 2013-2014. These winter periods are the basis of the 'Winters analysis' worksheet on page 207, from which the total number of winters that a gull has been present in London are calculated.

The order in which the data is sorted on each worksheet is stated after the title, followed by the equivalent column letter(s) in square brackets. **V** at the head of a column indicates the sorting order.

Foreign-ringed birds have been recorded from 14 countries: Belgium; Czech Republic; Denmark; Finland; France; Germany; Holland; Latvia; Lithuania; Norway; Poland; Russia; Spain; and Sweden. Where two countries appear under Country of origin, the first is for the metal ring, the second for the colour ring.

Summary of sites at which birds were observed

Site	Abbrvn	County	Grid ref	Location
Alexandra Park	APBL	Middlesex	TQ300900	Boating lake
Broomfield Park	BP	Middlesex	TQ304927	Unspecified
Regent's Park	RP	Inner London	TQ281828	Unspecified
St James's Park	SJP	Inner London	TQ294798	Unspecified
Hyde Park	HP	Inner London	TQ274804	Unspecified
Kensington Gardens	KG	Inner London	TQ265803	Unspecified
Wood Green Reservoir	WGR	Middlesex	TQ304900	Part of Alexandra Park

The Worksheets

The worksheet on pages 205-6 shows the birds ringed in each of the 14 foreign countries, in alphabetical order of the country, and then in order of the metal ring number (or

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
Foreign-ringed Black-headed Gulls, 2013-2022, by Alan Gibson. In order of Country [I, J, K]												
WP = Winter period: October to March Inclusive												
No. of WPs is based on the available First and Latest dates on which the bird was recorded.												
It does not imply that the bird was recorded during every winter period between them.												
First Year	First Month	Latest Year	Latest Month	WP1 years	WP2 years	No. of WPs	Site(s)	Country of origin	Metal ring No.	Colour ring MK	Colour ring Col	Entry order
2012	1	2015	1	2011/2012	2014/2015	4	HP	Belgium	7794602			8
2006	6	2015	2	2005/2006	2014/2015	10	RP	Czech Republic	H14113			148
2016	2	2016	2	2015/2016	2015/2016	1	BP	Denmark	6261333			192
2016	2	2018	3	2015/2016	2017/2018	3	BP, APBL	Denmark	6279574			176
2013	2	2013	2	2012/2013	2012/2013	1	RP	Denmark	6H2822	VVVV	White	26
2009	11	2013	1	2009/2010	2012/2013	4	RP	Denmark	6H5105			11
2011	1	2012	3	2010/2011	2012/2013	3	SJP	Denmark	6H8451	VE78	White	47
2009	12	2014	2	2009/2010	2013/2014	5	SJP	Denmark	6H9074			79
2021	10	2021	10	2021/2022	2021/2022	1	WGR	Denmark	6J1833	V17U	White	424
2013	12	2016	3	2013/2014	2015/2016	3	SJP, KG	Denmark	6J3464			71
2018	1	2018	2	2017/2018	2017/2018	1	HP	Denmark	6J4017	3FY	White	298
2015	11	2022	12	2015/2016	2022/2023	8	KG	Denmark	6J5021	OHV	White	159
2018	12	2022	12	2018/2019	2022/2023	5	WGR	Denmark	6J7416	2NK	White	345
2008	3	2017	2	2007/2008	2016/2017	10	RP	Denmark	AA6050			27
2007	12	2018	12	2007/2008	2018/2019	12	SJP	Denmark	AA6221	SLW	White	13
2010	3	2020	2	2009/2010	2019/2020	11	RP	Finland	5T28545			194
2006	4	2013	2	2005/2006	2012/2013	8	RP	Finland	5T247092			28
2014	2	2014	3	2013/2014	2013/2014	1	SJP, HP	Finland	5T259575			90
2010	11	2019	1	2010/2011	2018/2019	9	RP	Finland	5T294513			29
2013	3	2013	3	2012/2013	2012/2013	1	RP	Finland	5T286073			43
2016	12	2022	12	2016/2017	2022/2023	7	HP	Finland	5T292799			258
2012	11	2015	12	2012/2013	2015/2016	4	HP	Finland	5T294731			64
2011	12	2013	12	2011/2012	2013/2014	3	RP	Finland/Holland	5T285884	EAJD	White	30
2014	12	2014	12	2014/2015	2014/2015	1	KG	France	FS98508	Rea7	Black	118
2010	12	2018	1	2010/2011	2017/2018	8	SJP	Germany	5S51220			14
2016	12	2021	11	2016/2017	2021/2022	6	BP	Lithuania	HA24238			225
2009	12	2014	2	2009/2010	2013/2014	5	SJP	Denmark	6H9074			79
2012	2	2018	2	2011/2012	2015/2016	5	BP	Germany	5S01794			4
2013	1	2017	2	2012/2013	2016/2017	5	APBL	Poland	FS05065	T5RL	White	2
2013	11	2018	3	2013/2014	2017/2018	5	KG, HP, RP	Norway	800111	JDR	White	55
2014	11	2019	1	2014/2015	2018/2019	5	SJP	Latvia	T10531			108
2016	2	2020	2	2015/2016	2019/2020	5	KG	Norway	K02167	J37C	Green	189
2018	10	2022	10	2018/2019	2022/2023	5	KG, HP	Poland	FS28638	TBYT	Yellow	327
2018	12	2022	12	2018/2019	2022/2023	5	WGR	Denmark	6J7416	2NK	White	345
2019	2	2022	12	2018/2019	2022/2023	5	HP	Norway	6174404	JFJF	White	450
2009	11	2013	1	2009/2010	2012/2013	4	RP	Denmark	6H5105			11
2010	12	2014	1	2010/2011	2013/2014	4	SJP	Germany	5S51220			8
2012	1	2015	1	2011/2012	2014/2015	4	HP	Belgium	7794602			81
2012	11	2015	12	2012/2013	2015/2016	4	HP	Finland	5T294731			64
2015	10	2019	1	2015/2016	2018/2019	4	APBL, BP	Lithuania	HA30629			153
2015	11	2019	1	2015/2016	2018/2019	4	SJP	Holland	2507398	ECOY	White	161
2015	12	2019	2	2015/2016	2018/2019	4	RP	Germany	IA153131			171
2011	1	2013	3	2010/2011	2012/2013	3	SJP	Denmark	6H8451	VE78	White	47
2011	3	2013	1	2010/2011	2012/2013	3	RP	Sweden	6420336			12
2011	12	2013	12	2011/2012	2013/2014	3	RP	Finland/Holland	5T285884	EAJD	White	30
2013	12	2016	3	2013/2014	2015/2016	3	SJP, KG	Denmark	6J3464			71
2014	2	2016	2	2013/2014	2015/2016	3	SJP	Holland	3726038			92
2016	2	2018	3	2015/2016	2017/2018	3	BP, APBL	Denmark	6279574			176
2016	11	2018	11	2016/2017	2018/2019	3	HP	Holland	2512532	EE5T	White	217
2017	11	2020	1	2017/2018	2019/2020	3	HP	Lithuania	HA43432			275
2019	1	2021	3	2018/2019	2020/2021	3	APBL, WGR	Poland	FS09319	T8HV	Yellow	355
2013	11	2015	1	2013/2014	2014/2015	2	KG	Norway	800097	JH4A	White	54
2013	11	2015	1	2013/2014	2014/2015	2	KG, HP	Sweden	6427261			87

THE BREEDING BIRD SURVEY IN LONDON, 2021

RICHARD ARNOLD & SABRINA SCHALZ

The *BTO/JNCC/RSPB Breeding Bird Survey* (BBS) is the British Trust for Ornithology's (BTO) long-running national monitoring programme for breeding birds in the UK. Volunteers survey randomly selected 1km squares in each county, once in spring and once in early summer, by recording birds along predetermined transects. From this data, trends in breeding populations are calculated at both the national level and at regional levels across England. A summary of the results is provided yearly in an annual report (Harris, *et al.*, 2021). Details about the survey can be found on the BTO website (BTO, 2021), and the reports for each year from 1994 can be downloaded. Greater London is one of the English regions for which trends are reported – a summary of the results is published each year in the London Bird Report (Coleman) (Woodward).

In the eight years before the pandemic, the average number of 1km squares surveyed in Greater London was 102; this fell to 38 in 2020, at the height of the pandemic, before recovering to 80 surveyed squares in 2021 (see Table 1).

Table 1. Number of Squares surveyed in Greater London over the last ten years.

2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
97	112	107	106	103	107	97	89	38	80

Data from BTO/JNCC/RSPB Breeding Bird Survey.

Greater London is the smallest of the regions in England for which trends are reported. It therefore has relatively few 1km squares included in the survey, making trends in bird populations more difficult to elucidate. For trends to be published for a species, it must have been recorded in a minimum of 30 squares per year over the survey period being reported.

Due to the low coverage in 2020, it was not possible to calculate trends in that year, and therefore only raw count data was reported for Greater London in the London Bird Report that year (Woodward, 2022). The improved coverage in 2021 meant that trends were again possible to determine for the same 31 species that had been calculated before the pandemic: Goldfinch, Carrion Crow, Blackcap, Moorhen, Jackdaw, Stock Dove, House Sparrow and, of course, Ring-necked Parakeet showed significant increases in the five years from 2015, while Collared Dove, Green Woodpecker, Starling, Blackbird, Long-tailed Tit, Mistle Thrush, Greenfinch and Chaffinch showed significant decreases (see Table 2). Importantly, the percent change should not be interpreted as a precise measure; there is varying uncertainty depending on the sample size, and details can be found in the BBS report (Harris, *et al.*, 2021).

Table 2. Bird population trends for the Greater London region. Sample is the mean number of 1km squares covered during the time period indicated, excluding 2020. Change is the percentage change in population over the three periods: 2-year, 10-year and 25-year periods. Statistically significant changes in the 5-year trends are shown in blue. Data from *BTO/JNCC/RSPB Breeding Bird Survey*.

London England trends	All-time, 25-year trends (1995-2020)		10-year trends (2010-2020)		5-year trends (2015-2020)		2-year trends (2019-2021)
	Sample	Change	Sample	Change	Sample	Change	Change
Canada Goose	ND	ND	32	-8	30	1	-28
Mallard	43	-31	52	-19	48	-14	12
Moorhen	ND	ND	36	6	34	24	16
Feral Pigeon	74	-17	87	4	87	9	11
Stock Dove	ND	ND	ND	ND	32	36	8
Woodpigeon	84	47	99	-7	96	-2	14
Collared Dove	53	-27	60	-46	57	-17	7
Common Swift	58	-59	61	-37	58	-6	-10
Great Sp. Woodpecker	39	60	49	-13	48	10	27
Green Woodpecker	31	13	37	-27	34	-20	4
Ring-necked Parakeet	49	31851	81	111	86	41	33
Jay	41	-18	48	-20	46	-2	-16
Magpie	82	42	98	12	96	5	8
Jackdaw	ND	ND	38	80	42	25	-8
Carrion Crow	83	73	99	14	96	19	-2
Blue Tit	82	6	98	-17	95	-4	-6
Great Tit	78	113	96	-10	93	-1	-18
Long-tailed Tit	34	35	45	-28	42	-26	-12
Chiffchaff	35	123	47	1	46	-7	64
Blackcap	50	222	68	43	69	22	0
Wren	78	28	95	-4	92	-7	-8
Starling	80	-67	92	-40	88	-23	-7
Blackbird	84	-46	99	-32	96	-26	-39
Song Thrush	51	-41	59	-5	57	-7	3
Mistle Thrush	33	-67	35	-37	30	-27	-43
Robin	81	80	98	3	95	-2	5
House Sparrow	70	-62	80	24	79	38	13
Dunnoek	64	14	78	6	76	-9	-13
Chaffinch	56	-28	69	-72	56	-62	-50
Greenfinch	56	-64	57	-79	41	-51	-8
Goldfinch	55	492	82	84	85	16	-2

ND = no data

THE BIRDS OF WINDSOR OPEN SPACE, 1982-2020

JEREMY GALTON

Introduction

Lying within the Dollis Valley Green Walk, the 1.5km stretch of Windsor Open Space (WOS) is a conservation area, owned by the London Borough of Barnet. It is essentially a narrow band of deciduous woodland, mainly Ash and Sycamore, bordering both sides of the Dollis Brook. Typically it is about 40m wide, narrowing to only 5m at one point. A scattering of Alders grows along the banks of the brook. A footpath runs along its length beginning at the north end (TQ244910) beside Dollis Road and continuing southwards to Hendon lane (TQ240896). For much of its length the open space is bordered mainly by gardens but also an allotment and playing fields at the north end. Approximately halfway along, widening to nearly 200m is a more open area of grassland on the east side of the path, much of it kept in a mowed state. Collectively I will refer to the contiguous habitats of WOS, the adjacent gardens, allotments and playing fields as 'the Area'.

Recording

In September 1982 I moved into a property in Holders Hill Gardens (HHG), which runs 300m alongside WOS, and have kept an eye on the birds ever since. Much of my bird-watching has been fairly casual apart from an intense period from September 1st 1990

Dollis Brook. (Jeremy Galton)



to August 31st 1995. During these five years I spent about an hour every day for four or five days a week recording the occurrence and selected aspects of behaviour of the species I encountered. I largely ignored the commonest species so as to limit the workload although I did record their song output weekly for the five years. Unfortunately I have gathered little data for the month of August because I was usually away at that time. Recording involved noting down the exact locality of each sighting, the number of birds, flight direction and height, time, weather and anything else I deemed to be of interest. I carried out a number of song surveys specifically to plot the locations of singing birds. These included all those that I could hear from the path as I walked the length of WOS but only south to Waverley Grove. Survey 1 involved nine walks in May and June 1994, Survey 2 three walks in May 1995 and Survey 3 two walks in March 2002. In the systematic list below I give the maximum number of singing males (SM) counted during any one of the walks. The final 250m stretch from Waverley Grove to Hendon Lane I covered during WBBS surveys for the BTO in April and June all years from 2007 to 2019 but counts from these surveys are not included unless stated otherwise. These latter surveys started at the HHG bridge and continued 1.5km south to Brent Park. From September 1995 onwards I continued to walk through WOS but only noted down observations that interested me at the time.

Losses and gains

Losses. Seven species which regularly or possibly bred in WOS or its immediate surroundings in the 1980s and have now disappeared and mirror the national (Burns *et al* 2020) and London decline (eg LNHS 2015-9) include: Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, House Martin, Spotted Flycatcher, House Sparrow, Bullfinch and Lesser Redpoll. The Willow Tit also may well have bred but has been totally absent for the last 35 years or so. WOS has also lost Treecreeper and probably Tawny Owl. Other breeding species, such as Swift and Starling, have declined in number, again in line with the national trend. Fly-over occurrences of Lapwing and Skylark have dwindled also.

Gains. Four species which were rarities in the early eighties are now breeding in the area: the Sparrowhawk is now frequently seen and undoubtedly nests nearby if not in WOS itself. Green Woodpecker is a new breeding species as are Jackdaw and Ring-necked Parakeet. In addition, Little Egrets are now very frequent visitors to the brook. Visits by Herring and Lesser Black-backed Gulls have increased too. Most of these species have increased in London as a whole (LNHS 1984-2019).

Systematic list

Presentation of Data

Following each species heading (except for the scarcest species) I have put an indication of its past and current status as follows:

Lost: formerly a regular breeder or visitor but now virtually never occurs.

Decreasing: numbers are declining but still present in 2020.

Stable: no apparent change.

Increasing: numbers have been increasing in recent years.

Gain: refers to a species which now breeds in the area or is a frequent visitor but was absent or very rare in the 1980s.

Siskin: Variable. Days (Oct-Mar) = 110 (43%). Winter visitor most years, appearing as singles or in groups of up to 30 during the second week of October (earliest October 10th in 1993) and staying until the end of March and, exceptionally, into April (latest April 11th in 1986). Little data from recent years.

Yellowhammer: At least three males and a female were present from January 15th to 25th 1984 during a very cold spell. They remained close to the brook, either on the concrete bank, earth bank or grass, at the north end of WOS (beside the allotment).

Reed Bunting: One on January 17th 1987 in long grasses close to the brook beside HHG. Possibly a wanderer from a small lake 0.9km north of WOS where they probably bred in the 1980s.

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FINDING YOUTH BIRDING IN THE CONCRETE JUNGLE

KEIR CHAUHAN



Common Redshank. (Keir Chauhan)

One of the greatest joys of birding is sharing the passion for birds with others. Working for the British Trust for Ornithology as a Youth Representative over the last two years has allowed me to see how youth birding is expanding. In London especially it has been exciting to watch first-hand as a contingent of London youth birders has come through.

Meeting like-minded people interested in birding is a challenge especially if you are young. There remains an association of birding with retirement and watching birds in your garden rather than the exhilaration that birding can bring as a life-long passion. In schools, the pressure to fit in and be 'normal' (whatever that truly means) often makes birding a secret interest rather than something to be proud of. As a result, it makes it harder to meet other young birders, and this lack of connectivity means that the passion is often lost until later in life. From a conservation perspective, this is something that we cannot afford to let happen.

Many of my friends have admitted to me that they didn't reveal that they were birders at school for fear of being mocked. One of the biggest regrets I have in my life so far is not becoming a birder sooner and not being more assertive about my deep interest in nature when I was at school. However, I really count myself as having been lucky over the last two years to have found and been absorbed into the world of birding. This has allowed me to meet fascinating and delightful citizen scientists of all ages and to experience the wealth of wildlife in the UK. It has been and continues to be an enriching experience.

LITTLE EGRETS IN WANDLE PARK, COLLIERS WOOD

DAVID ELEMENT

Introduction

The Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* established (or possibly re-established) itself as a British breeding species in 1996 following a natural range expansion from continental Europe. Historically, Little Egrets would have been persecuted commercially in Africa for their 'aigrettes', the beautiful and elaborate feathers that may be seen to good effect when one shakes its plumage. This was the human vanity pure and simple so that these plumes could be used to decorate hats and adorn items of clothing. Fortunately, this trade, formerly surprisingly valuable, has now ceased. Since their arrival these elegant birds have rapidly extended their range. The Little Egret is protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 which makes it an offence to kill, injure or take a live bird, or to take, damage or destroy an active nest or its contents. The author first observed Little Egrets over-wintering in Wandle Park, Colliers Wood, London SW19 (as distinct from the park of the same name in Croydon) in January 2008 and began to photograph them. Little temptation was required as they are very photogenic! After a while it became apparent that there were physical differences that could be used for the identification of most (but not all) individuals. In consequence, it has proven possible

A Little Egret shaking down its plumage, showing the aigrettes, that at one time were considered to have a value greater than that of gold! (David Element)



to confirm that one bird has visited for consecutive winters. By 2014 the author had selected the Little Egret as the subject of a large scale, photographic quality book, and several updated and improved versions have since been privately published.

Wandle Park has been partly owned by the National Trust since 1907. Historically, the land had been used for commercial purposes including flour-milling, but in 1907, the Wandle Bank House estate was purchased by the Wimbledon Corporation for public use. This 3-hectare Park is currently being managed by Merton Council, and by sub-contractors (idverde UK). Between 1995 and 2002 it was transformed from a nondescript municipal park with an ugly concrete watercourse into a model example of what might be achieved with comparable effort elsewhere, and it now has considerable value for wildlife. Much of this restoration has been achieved by several committed voluntary organisations including Merton Groundwork Trust with financial support from the Environment Agency, Merton Council, the National Trust, the former Connolly's Leather Works (formerly a mill, and since converted to housing) and the European Life Budget. Local residents and schools were consulted. Subsequent planting of well-chosen native trees and shrubs, the re-naturalisation of the watercourse to restore the original stream as closely as possible, and the installation of reed-beds has contributed to this transformation. Many of these plants have now matured, contributing hugely to the value of this site for berry and seed-eating birds in winter.

Little Egrets in Wandle Park, 2008-2021

The Little Egret is a small, white member of the heron family Ardeidae. It is considerably smaller than the Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* and the increasingly observed Great Egret *A. alba*, and readily distinguishable from the only other small, predominantly white species, the Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*, rapidly increasing its British population at the time of writing, but less strongly associated with aquatic habitats. It is a matter of some intrigue as to why some herons like the Bittern *Botaurus stellaris* are cryptically marked, and others are bright white, being visible to us (and to potential predators!) from a considerable distance! Wandle Park consists of 3 hectares of flood-plain adjacent to the River Wandle, passing through an urbanised London suburb, but contributing to a string of riverside parks linked by their proximity to the River.

The River Wandle originates from a chalk spring near Carshalton, and it was once a filthy sewer, filled with chemical or heavy metal contaminants from industry in adjacent factories powered by impressive wooden waterwheels driven by the fast-flowing current. Fortunately, we now live in more enlightened times, and the River is now clean (most of the time, and despite claims to the contrary) and filled with significant stocks of fish. As already indicated, Wandle Park used to be a relatively boring municipal park, and although there was a flow of water through the Park it was directed through artificial concrete channels with little value to, or appeal for wildlife. Historical photographs are available on-line illustrating the Park prior to its transformation. However, in 1995, work was begun to re-naturalise the banks of these channels and to create reed-beds to assist with the filtration of pollutants in the event of an accidental spillage or a deliberate fly-tip of chemicals. At this point in time there is a stream passing through the Park, and a second, slower-flowing channel that feeds into two reed-beds, essentially forming a loop that feeds back into the River Wandle at the northern end of the Park. The faster-



Little Egret 7: a) Dorsal view of feet showing the shortened left outer toe and the black stripes on the outer toes, b) This photograph illustrates the thickened toe joint on the right foot and shortened left outer toe. (David Element)

Little Egret No. 7

This Little Egret has a smart yellow cere and it is missing the end of the outer toe on its left foot. The inner toe of its right foot is partly swollen, indicating a possible earlier broken bone. It also possesses dorsal stripes on both outer toes and the rear of both feet is black, obvious when seen from the rear. This individual was seen just once in November 2020.

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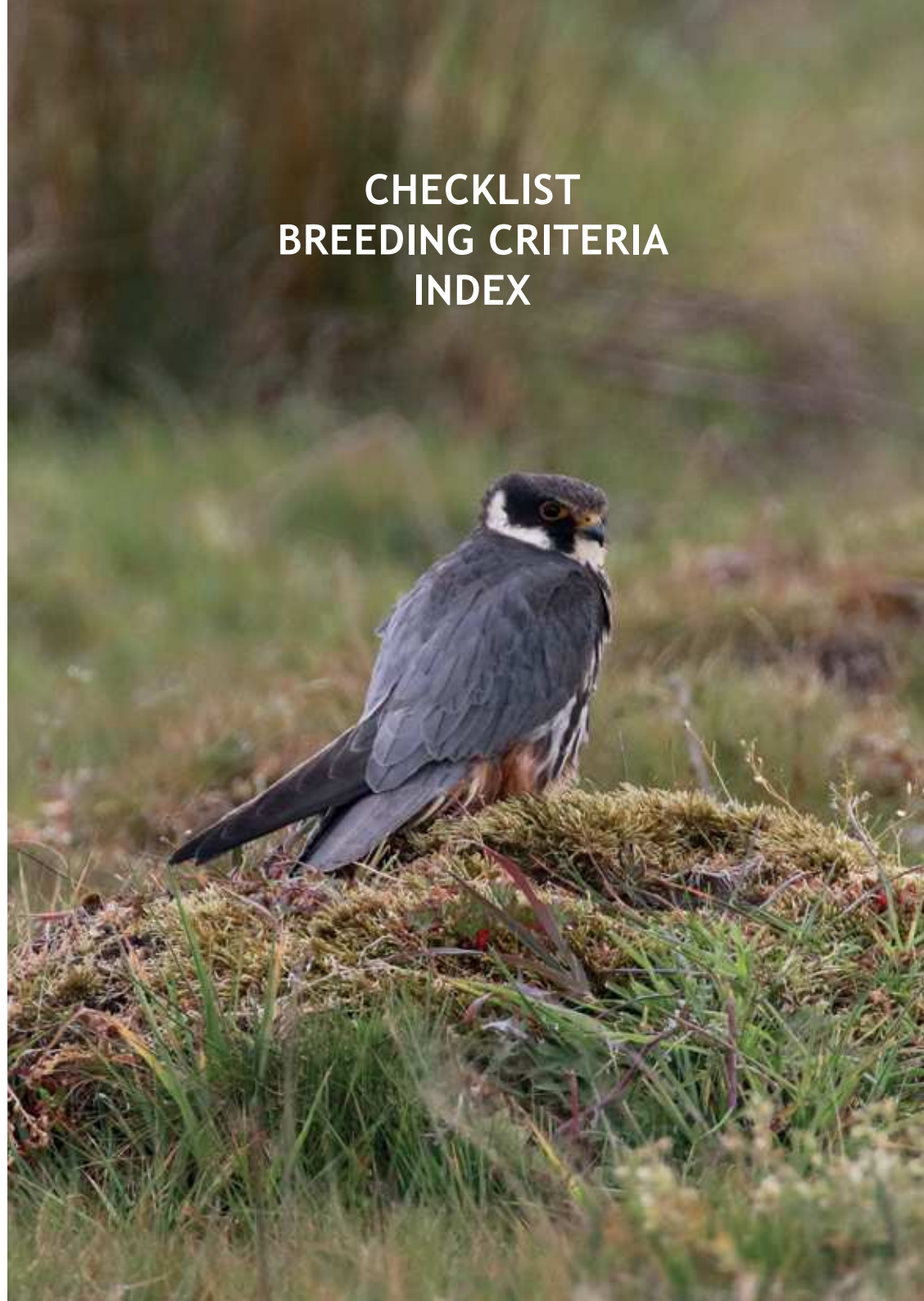
Useful Links:

- <https://www.bobbbooks.co.uk/bookshop/photobook/in-my-natural-element-the-wildlife-of-wandle-park-6>
- <https://www.bobbbooks.co.uk/bookshop/photobook/little-egrets-3-1>
- <https://www.bobbbooks.co.uk/bookshop/photobook/little-egrets-3>
- <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL4AirIEc0NocD7JYvY7WCwY1xHdJecvIM>
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CHECKLIST BREEDING CRITERIA INDEX



CHECKLIST OF BIRDS OF THE LONDON AREA AND GUIDE TO CONTRIBUTORS OF RECORDS

The total number of species recorded in an apparently wild state in the London Area in historic times is 373, with the addition this year of Dark-eyed Junco. Of these, the 12 species marked with an * in the checklist were recorded at least once prior to 1900 but have not been recorded in an apparently wild state since. The Checklist follows the order of the British Ornithologists' Union (BOU) List, 9th edition, February 2019 and its nomenclature (apart from Feral Pigeon).

All records of ornithological interest, from LNHS members and non-members alike, are welcomed by the London Bird Club. However, with an ever-growing number of active birdwatchers in the London Area, it seems sensible to issue a guide to our requirements.

This guide is not intended to be comprehensive, and contributors are asked to use their own guidance and common sense, but it does serve as a reference point for the type of records required. For example, with many common breeding species, comparative yearly breeding counts are especially welcomed. The Rarities Committee needs details of any rarities (denoted by R), and also reserves the right to request full details for any record, eg, out-of-season migrants. This guide does not apply to Inner London, where all records are required, but similar criteria regarding descriptions should be followed.

Please note: 'Lower Thames' is defined as the section of the R Thames from the Thames Barrier to the eastern edge of our recording area.

Key to records required:	N	= brief notes required (how identified, view, distance, etc); form available on LNHS website (see Details of an Unusual Bird on page 3).
A	=	all records.
B	=	all breeding records.
BBRC	=	full description required; form from www.bbrc.org.uk. <i>British Birds</i> Rarities Committee makes the decision.
D	=	full description required; form available on LNHS website (see Details of an Unusual Bird on page 3).
F&L	=	first and last dates for any site.
MM	=	dated monthly maximum counts.
	NR	= all records from sites where bird not seen regularly.
	P	= passage movements.
	S	= all records mid-May to mid-July.
	ST	= annual statement of status at a site.
	T	= all territory counts.
	W	= records outside breeding season.

Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>	A
Red-breasted Goose*	<i>Branta ruficollis</i>	R BBRC
Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	MM, B, ST
Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	R A, N
Snow Goose	<i>Anser caerulescens</i>	R A, D (unless obvious escape)
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	R A, D
Tundra Bean Goose	<i>Anser serrirostris</i>	R A, D
White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	A
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Bewick's Swan	<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>	R A, N
Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	R A, N
Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>	A
Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	MM, NR, B, S
Mandarin Duck	<i>Aix galericulata</i>	A
Garganey	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>	A
Blue-winged Teal	<i>Spatula discors</i>	R BBRC
Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>	MM, NR, B, S
Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>	MM, NR, B, S
Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>	A
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	MM, B, ST
Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	A
Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	MM, NR, B, S
Green-winged Teal	<i>Anas carolinensis</i>	R A, D
Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>	A
Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	R BBRC
Ring-necked Duck	<i>Aythya collaris</i>	R A, D
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>	A
Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>	R A, D
King Eider	<i>Somateria spectabilis</i>	R BBRC
Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	R A, N
Velvet Scoter	<i>Melanitta fusca</i>	R A, D
Common Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>	A
Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	R A, N
Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	A
Smew	<i>Mergellus albellus</i>	A
Goosander	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	A
Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	A
Ruddy Duck	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>	A, B, ST
Black Grouse*	<i>Lyrurus tetrix</i>	R A, D
Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>	A
Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>	A
Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	A

BREEDING CRITERIA

When sending in breeding records, please enter: 'possible breeding', 'probable breeding' or 'confirmed breeding' in the Notes section on the electronic records form according to the definitions below. Additional information should also be given, such as number of territories, broods, nests, young fledged, etc.

Possible breeding

- Species observed in breeding season in suitable nesting habitat
- Singing male present (or breeding calls heard) in breeding season in suitable habitat

Probable breeding

- Pair observed in suitable nesting habitat in breeding season
- Permanent territory presumed on at least two different days, a week or more apart
- Courtship and display (judged to be in or near potential breeding habitat)
- Visiting probable nest-site
- Agitated behaviour or anxiety calls from adults, suggesting nest or young near by
- Brood patch on adult examined in the hand, suggesting incubation
- Nest-building or excavating nest-hole

Confirmed breeding

- Distraction-display or injury-feigning
- Used nest or eggshells found (occupied or laid within period of survey)
- Recently-fledged young (for warblers and other birds whose young are fed at the nest for some time after hatching, 'nidicolous species') or downy young (for ducks and other birds where the young leave the nest soon after hatching, 'nidifugous species')
- Adults entering or leaving nest-site in circumstances indicating occupied nest
- Adult carrying faecal sac or food for young
- Nest containing eggs
- Nest with young seen or heard

The above breeding categories are as used in the BTO Atlas project.

INDEX OF SPECIES - COMMON NAMES

This alphabetical index lists the common name of each species in the systematic list with its page number in roman type. Page numbers of illustrations and photographs are in *italic type*. Papers on particular species have their first page number in **bold type**.

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